FRANK LESLIES

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Mercantile Agencies.

How They May be Made Useful Politically. It is not necessary for people to live in Tooley street nor to be tailors, in order to make themselves ridiculous in political affairs. They may, for that matter, live in Fifth avenue, and be "steamboat men," and presidents of insurance companies, and merchants.

We can conceive of no spectacle more comical than that which was presented at the Cooper Institute, when Mr. Alexander T. Stewart and his grave and reverend associates endeavored to bestride public opinion, and ride it in the interest of General Grantjust as if that opinion was not only already made up, but far beyond being moulded or directed by their hands. These venerable those who called it and aspired to manage it

gentlemen propose to "move the people" in favor of the General for the Presidency, when all the world knows that they could not possibly have any more to do with the "Grant movement" than had the famous fly on the coach-wheel in raising the dust that so grati-fied his self-importance. The meeting was held, and the worthy gentlemen who called it and paid for it sat solemnly on the platform, but the people present, as well as the speakers, as completely ignored them as if they had been blocks of wood. It was perfectly obvious that instead of *leading* the "Grant movement" they were only hobbling after it.

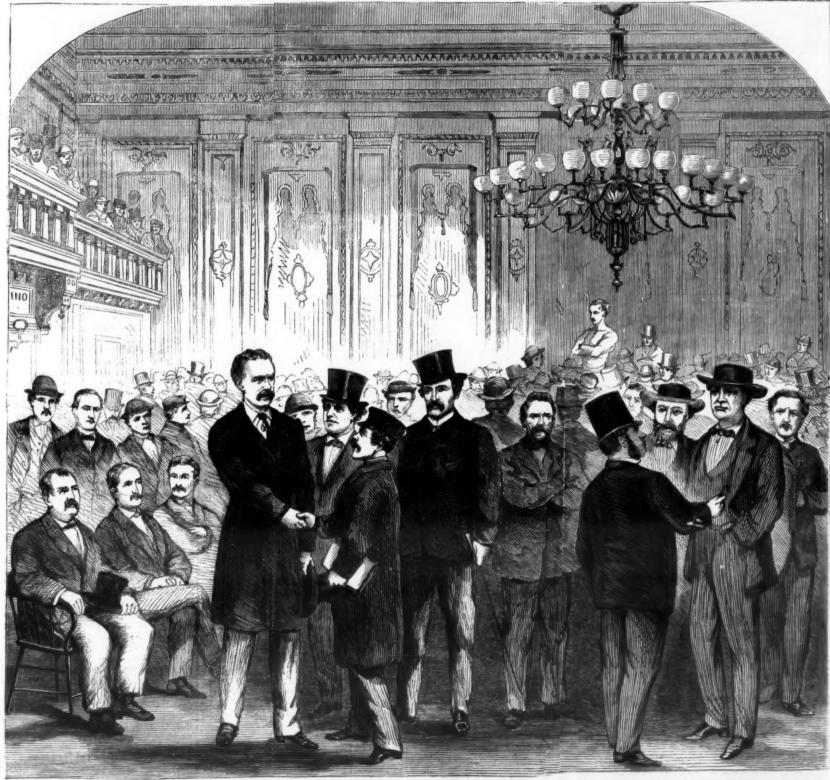
were concerned. We were mistaken. The | the "Mercantile Agencies," or something like next move of the managers was more ridiculous. It seems they resolved themselves into a Grant Committee, which held a meeting when it was settled that there must be a "plan of operations." It was fixed that there must be an "organization," and Mr. Stewart having one of the best organized drygoods stores in the city or the world, it was obvious that he was the man to suggest wh t should be done. In the first place the "move-ment" must be "spontaneous," which it could not be if left to the machinery of party, and besides, it must be irrespective of party.

Mr. Stewart was equal to the responsibility, as we learn from the reports in the newspapers. He proposed to use the machinery of

it, for the accomplishment of the great objects of the committee. "He would issue a short business circular to the commercial men of the country, and get from them an expression of opinion in advance of the politicians." He would confine the movement to "persons and firms of an exclusively business character," and leave the rest of the American people to come in afterward.

We are told that this "business-like" plan was adopted after "earnest speeches" by sev-eral distinguished members of the committee. We regret that we have not been favored with full reports of these speeches, but can imagine that they ran about as follows:

"MR. A. T. STEWART, on rising, said he thought the



Sam Collyer.

Bill Byall. Barney Asron. Dooney Harris. "The Irish Giant." Ned James.

John C. Heensn.

Bill Deves.

Dr. Lindsay, Low Baker. Michael McCoole. Jim Cusick.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. NED O'BALDWIN, THE IRISH GIANT AND PRIZE FIGHTER, AT THE CASINO, RAST HOUSTON STREET, NEW YORK, ON FRIDAY EVENING, 3RD INST. -- SEE PAGE 291.

machinery of the Mercantile Agencies could be made subservient to the object of the committee. He knew, no one better, the immense influence exerted by these accreties. Their records of the business affairs and even of the private relations of every merchant throughout the United States were invainable, as he had often found. The credit, and often the happiness of these merchants, depended upon the standing the Mercantile Agencies chose to give them. On the other hand, these agencies were paid by him and others in trade like him, and if a hint were given that it would be agreeable to the leading merchants in New York that their proposed nomination should be zealously seconded, and that business facilities would, in a certain measure, be dependent upon the extent to which their views were adopted, he had no doubt the happiest results would follow. He had a large number of correspondents, and great influence with the agencies, and if his idea was approved of, he would at once write to each one of them, urging them to use their influence in behalf of deneral Grant."

"MR. Agrom was not acquainted with these details of the retail trada. He looked on General Grant as he would look at a piece of real estate. The question was, would it pay to invest in him, looking to the interests of three generations hence? In his opinion nothing could be more eligible. It was good for building upon, and if taxes were higher, the lot would also rise in value. He knew a number of very active real estate agents, in fact, he himself employed several, and he thought that they might be induced to work for the spontaneous nomination of deneral Grant, in connection with the Mercantile -Mercantile [Agencies, especially if the intimation that it might be exclusively a matter of business were made pretty strongly. He would not object to exercise a little leniency toward voting tenants one of the best horsemen he ever knew, and in his experience a man who have a horse thoroughly, knew almost everything else. Like his friend Mr. Astor, he did n

We are happy to hear that answers from "exclusive business men" are coming in, and we subjoin a few of them, without, however, vouching for their authority any more than for the genuineness of the speeches reported above.

General Sections of the specific and the subject of your respectfully,

General Section 1. Columbus, Ohio, 1

23d December, 1867. 1

23d December, 1877. 1

23d

KNOXVILLE, TENN.,) 24th December, 1867.

Messes.

New York.

Gentlemen. We have just received your favor of the 19th inst. The agitation of political questions in this state has brought ruin on so many of our neighbors that we have determined to avoid them in future. The election of General Grant might be worth canvassing for, if we were assured from anything he had said or done that he could heal the dissensions which now divide our unhappy country. But in the absence of any such assurance, we must be excused, even at the risk, as you hint, of losing your good opinion and the limited credit you have been accustomed to extend to us.

Yours truly,

Yours truly, SNODGRASS & CO.

BUFFALO, Jan. 11, 1868.

MISTHER STEWART—Much oblected to you Misther Biowark, but it must be the other Mike O'Callaghan yer afther writin to; the dirty divil in the other strate, who has never paid me the oysiers and the whiskey he tult with me win Gineal Lay was afther Geltysburg, and sells tapes an't things o' the sort in the other strate, as I tould you before. But as I am Mike O'Callaghan, and keeps seef goods and niver knew good a comin of anything that's dirty, mesself and the other business men are all agoin' for Baymour, who is a peaceable man, and Pendleton, who won't pay you a rap o' yer bloody money that you paid so grand for hoomiliatin our sufferin tellow-citizens and irayin the black nazurs.

MIKE O'CALLAGHAN.

Nota Bene.—It's "sponthaneous" ye'll have it? Be the takers I'll take mine could and sthrong.

Nota Benc.—It's "sponthaneous" ye'il have it? the jabers I'll take mine could and sthrong,

NEW YORK MERCANTILE AGENCY, 19th Dec., 1867.

GENTLEMEN—Yours of this date received. Shall do all we can to forward your views; but with this understanding—that you indemnify unifor any loss we sustain from legal measures or otherwise, by writing a lower standing opposite the names of the merchants who refuse to act as your desire. Our object is to make money at as little risk as possible.

Yours, etc., e

Yours, etc., etc.

WASHINGTON, 6th Jan.
GENTLEMEN—Your polite letter of the 19th has been received. You invite me to give you my opinion on some points of political interest which now engage the public mind, in order to promote the success of the nomination you have honored me by making of my name for the next Presidency. Though your sentiments toward me are expressed in slatering language, I cannot see any reason for departing from the principle I have hald down of not expressing any opinions on any political questions whatever. If the choice of the people for the office of President should fall on me, I feel I should be more untrammeled in my efforts to serve them if I gave no pledges to any of the parties of the day. The people are generally better judges of the funes of those they desire to administer the affairs of the nation than the leaders of political parties are, and I would rather submit to their judgment than to that of their self-constituted leaders. Of course, with these views, I cannot decline a nomination, though I cannot seek it not nesist those making it. It is not impossible that the favorite may be a "dark" horse, and I have known some such win the race.

With much respect, I am, gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
U. S. G.
P. S.—My business as a tanner did not bring me in retation with "Morcantile Agencies," and I can dve no WASHINGTON, 6th Jan.

P. S.—My business as a tanner did not bring me in resistion with "Mercantile Agencies," and I can give no pinion on their usefuncess for any purpose whatever, till, I am convinced Dexter is a faster trotter than

FRANK LESLIE'S

ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER. 537 Pearl Street, New York.

NEW YORK, JANUARY 25, 1868,

Notice—We have no travelling agents. A persons representing themselves to be such are in

Special Notice.

We shall be happy to enter into negotiations with any author of established reputation, whose engagements will permit, for a Continued Story for THE CHIMNEY CORNER The highest price will be paid. Decision promptly given.

Notice.

In the course of the present year, we shall publish literary contributions from the pens of some of the most talented and celebrated authors of this country and of Europe. First on the list of those with whom we have successfully negotiated, is CAPTAIN MAYNE REID, whose numerous intensely interesting and instructive works are familiar to the American public, and have rendered him popular throughout the world. We shall soon be prepared to an nounce an original romance, written expressly for this paper, by this distinguished soldier and accomplished writer.

The Island and Harbor of St. Thomas.

THE treaty recently concluded between Mr. Seward and the King of Denmark for the purchase of a portion of the Danish islands in the West Indies, is understood to be before the Senate, and we this week publish a map of the principal island, St. Thomas, with a view of the town and harbor as it was before the earthquakes and hurricane of October and November. It is doubtful if the Senate will ratify a treaty made in obedience to no public requirement or necessity, which is a harsh departure from the policy which has governed our Territorial acquisitions heretofore, and which is a virtual concession to the Secretary of State of the right of indefinitely disposing of the public funds without regard to the only branch of Congress which has the constitutional right of directing their appropriation. Still, as a matter of present, if only of ephemeral interest, we subjoin the following data respecting St. Thomas and St. Johns, purchased by Mr. Seward, and the islands adjacent.

These islands belong to a group discovered by Columbus himself in 1493, and to which he gave the name of "The Virgin Islands," in honor of the eleven thousand virgins, followers of Saint Ursula, who, according to the legend, were slain at Cologne, where their bones are still shown, alike to the credulous and the scoffing. The early Spaniards thought them unworthy of notice, and a century later, in 1596, they were described by the historian of the Earl of Cumberland's Expedition against Porto-Rico, as "a knot of little islands, wholly uninhabited, sandy, barren and craggy." first occupants were the Dutch buccaneers, who were subsequently expelled by a body of English members of the same piratical fraternity. These affected to hold the islands for the British crown, and Charles the Second accepted them at their hands, and attached them to the Government of the Leeward Islands.

The English establishment, such as it was, seems to have been confined to the island of Tortola, which still remains in British hands. In 1671 was formed in Denmark "The West India and Guinea Company," whose agents proceeded to occupy St. Thomas, as uninhabited. The English authorities in that part of the world remonstrated, but on the representations of Christian V., King of Denmark, Charles the Second issued an order that the Danes should not be interfered with in their new possession. After many political vicissitudes, St. Thomas remained to the Danes by the peace of 1815.

In the interval, however, in 1684, the Danes took formal possession of the adjacent island of St. Johns; but it was not until 1716 that any settlement was made on it, and it thenceforward remained under the same Government with St. Thomas.

About forty miles to the south of St. Thomas another and larger island, that of St. Croix The English and Dutch first occupied it; it heart-rending screams of the unfortunate wonext passed into the hands of the Knights of men and children who had not time to make Malta, who sold it to France, from whom it their escape." was purchased by the Danes, in 1733, for 750,-000 French livres.

The whole Virgin group, which comprises upward of forty islands large and small, most of them mere rocks with little verdure and no water, seems to be composed of the peaks of some submerged Alps or Andes, and are lofty, rough, and precipitous; so much so as almost to prohibit cultivation. rounded by deep water, they have a large number of bays or coves, affording harbors almost land-locked, and these, rather than any intrinsic resources, have given the islands their importance.

or ridge of a small chain of smaller mountains," reaching the elevation of 1,515 feet, and composed of trappean rocks. Its length is about thirteen miles, its width three miles, and its total area about thirty-seven square miles. The soil is generally poor, and water is scarce. On several occasions the island has suffered greatly from droughts, which are often protracted from six to seven months. The mean rainfall for eleven years, from 1828 to 1839, was 46.8 inches. This fall is chiefly confined to certain seasons, and 14 inches have been known to fall in a single month. The average temperature for the year, from observations taken at 6 o'clock in the morning, 2 o'clock P. M., and 8 o'clock P. M., is 80 degrees of Fahrenheit. The hottest months are June, July, August, September, and October, when the average temperature is 83 degrees of Fahrenheit.

Of the climate and health of St. Thomas, Mr. Trollope writes in his "West Indies and Spanish Main," as follows: "It is one of the hottest and most unhealthy spots among all these hot and unhealthy regions. Ido not know whether I should not be justified in saying that of all of such spots, it is the most hot and the most unhealthy."

Of all the afflictions to which the island is subject, the most terrible are the hurricanes. They occur mainly in August, September, and October. In anticipation of their arrival, the 25th of July is observed as a day of "fasting, humiliation and prayer," and the 25th of October is held as a day of thanksgiving, for then the hurricane season is supposed to be over. The great hurricane of 1867, however, occurred on the 28th of October.

" During the continuance of the hurricanes says the Rev. Mr. Knox, in his book on St. Thomas, "the force of the wind almost exceeds belief. Only the strongest buildings can resist it. It is a merciful Providence that those which are so very destructive only occur at interva's of The island fifteen or twenty-five years. * was visited, and each time almost desolated by hurricanes, in 1713, 1738, 1742, 1772, 1793, 1819, and 1837."

"To guard against the destructive effects of the hurricanes as much as possible," continues this author, "the houses are provided with strong bars for doors and windows. When the weather gives alarming symptoms, everything is made fast, and the state of suspense is awful, while the town looks as if it were deserted. It is not known when the house may give way and bury all beneath its ruin. This suspense, added to the deafening howling of the blasts, the crash of uprooted trees, and the often piercing cries for help, overwhe'm the mind with terror. To venture out is al-most certain death, as tiles, and boards, and other missiles, are flying in every direction with an irresistible force.

As showing the violence of the hurricane of 1837, which, however, was not one-fifth as violent and destructive as that of 1867, Mr. King quotes the following from the log-book H. M. packet "Spey:"

H. M. packet "Spey:"

"SUNDAY, AUGUST GTH, 1837.—Came to anchor in St. Thomas harbor, and landed the mails. Here the hurricane of the 2d appeared to have concentrated all its force, power and intry, for the harbor and town were a scene that baffle all description. Thirty-six ships and vessels totally wrecked all around the harbor, among which about a dozen had capsized or sunk at their anchors; some rode it out by cutting away their masts, and upward of 100 seamen were drowned. The harbor is so chocked with wrecks and sunken vessels, that it is difficult to pick out a berth for a ship to anchor. The destructive powers of this hurricane will never be forgotten. The fort at the entrance of the harbor is leveled with the foundation, and the 24-pounders thrown down. It looks as if it had been battered to pieces by cannon-shot. No place, kitherio, has suffered so much from a hurricane, in all the West Indies, as St. Thomas."

Earthquakes are not infrequent in St.

Earthquakes are not intrequent in St. Thomas, but none have proved so severe as those of the month of November, in which upward of four hundred shocks occurred, wrecking many vessels, besides doing great damage on land. The United States steamer De Soto was thrown ashore at St. Thomas, and the war steamer Monongahela cast high and dry over the roofs of the houses into the heart of the town of Santa Cruz. An officer of the vessel describes the impulse of the earthquake waves, the first of which carried the vessel past the street running parallel with the water, and the rest thrust it further inland. He says, "We passed over a long row of sheds which we helped the sea to knock down, and then directly in front of the second story windows of the houses on the street, within which we could distinctly hear, as we went

The inhabitants of the island of St. Thomas amounted in 1850 to 13,666, of which all except 1,283 persons resided in the town of St. Thomas. They are described by Mr. Trollope as a "Hispano-Dano-Niggery-Yankee-doodle population." The Spanish element is strong, and but few beyond the officers and soldiers are Danes. The laboring population is all black. The remainder are ship-chandlers, and dealers in cigars, light dresses, brandy, boots and eau-de-cologne.

Commercially, St. Thomas derives its importance, not from the superior excellence of its

St. Thomas has been described "as the top | than a century ago it was made a free port. At present, consignees of goods have only to present an account and the value of their goods to the custom officers, on which a nominal duty of one and a quarter per cent. is charged, but as the authorities have no power to demand invoices, they cannot guard against fraud, so that probably the duty collected does not equal one-half of one per cent.

The English island of Tortola, lying in sight of St. Thomas, has a better harbor, but the policy that made St. Thomas a free port, made it also a centre of trade and exchange, not only for most of the Carribbean Islands, but the States of South and Central America, and induced the various European steamship lines to make it a coal depot and point of intersection of their subsidiary lines. The most important of these lines, that of the British "Royal Mail Steam Packet Company," has, however, been transferred from the island, partly on account of the heavy losses already sustained from hurricanes and earthquakes, and partly because the yellow fever had permanently established itself there, and was becoming every year more malignant.

Subject St. Thomas to the revenue laws of the United States, and its commercial importance would cease forever.

The harbor and town of St. Thomas lie about midway of the island, on its south side. The harbor itself is formed by a branch of the main range of hills reaching round on the east, and a small island or cay on the southwest and west, joined to the shore by a low neck of land. Its shape is that of a parallelogram, one and a half miles long. The opening out to sea is half a mile wide. The town lies on the north side of the harbor, and is | uilt partly on a narrow level space, and partly upon three hills which abut down from the high range nearly to the shore, and on the level spaces between. The main street runs parallel with the shore about one hundred yards The stores are substantial buildings, generally of only one story. There is a small public square, on the East Savannah, partly planted with trees.

Mr. Trollope says of the town: "Seen from the harbor it is very pretty. It is not so much the scenery of the island that pleases as the aspect of the town itself. It stands on three hills or mounts, with higher hills, green to their summits, rising behind them. Each mount is topped by a pleasant, cleanly edifice, and pretty-looking houses stretch down to the water's edge. The buildings look pretty and nice, as though chance had arranged them for a picture. Indeed, as seen from the harbor the town looks like a panorama exquisitely painted. The air is thin and transparent, and every line shows clearly. But it is like the Dead Sea fruit; all the charm is gone when it is tasted. Land, and the beauty vanishes.

The seat of government of the Danish West India Islands, however, is not at St. Thomas, but at St. Croix, the largest and most productive of all the islands. It is a noticeable fact that this island is not included in the sale from the Danish Crown to the United States, for the reason, it has been stated, that France has a lien on the island, or some kind of reversionary interest in it. If this be so, and this is a point which the Senate will undoubtedly investigate, St. Thomas would be a barren acquisition, for we would be dominated by Great Britain in the larger island of Tortola on one side, and by France on the island of St. Croix on the other. Any attempts on our part to make St. Thomas a strong naval station would be followed by corresponding attempts to strengthen their positions by France and England, and we should soon find ourselves engaged in a struggle as to who should risk most money and waste most effort among the barren rocks of the West Indies, riven by earthquakes, swept by hurricanes, and pestilent with the yellow fever.

Insurance and Assurance.

A GREAT many unsophisticated people imagine (that full and entire protection against losses by fire is secured for their household goods by the payment of certain annual premiums to an Insurance Company. Unpleasant as is the task of depriving our fellow-beings of even a fictitious consolation, we feel it to be a duty to dissipate this delusion.

The popular definition of Company would doubtless be "an association which, for a specified premium, undertakes a specified risk; the said premium being a fixed percentage of the said risk"; but the Insurance Companies, who are their own lexicographers, attach a very different signification to the contracts between themselves and the general public; and, although they cheerfully a yearly percentage on your valuation of your property, consider themselves liable, in case of the destruction of said property, only according to their own valuation thereof. Considerations of comparative value, as enhanced by family associations, are cast out from their calculations as soon as they are called upon to disburse. To be sure, if you harbor, as is so often alleged, but because more have furniture which has descended to you

may estimate its worth to you individually at your pleasure, and the courteous officials of any Insurance Company will, with the greatest alacrity, fill you up a policy nominally insuring your "household furniture, plate, linen, etc.," for (say) twenty thousand dollars, for and in consideration of an annual payment of a little less than one-fourth per cent. on that sum; nor will your veneration for genealogical memories meet with any rebuff, so long as you escape igneous catastrophe and pay your premiums promptly. They will humor your harmless eccentricity for twenty years, if they be the gainers for so long a period; but let a fire occur-let your precious goods be destroyedthen, fortified with your policy, call upon the 'parties of the second part" for the sum on which you have paid twenty years' interest— and you will find yourself treated as either a swindler or a lunatic. The "actual market value" of what you have lost is to be appraised, irrespective of any "fanciful and fictitious" price you may have affixed, and in utter disregard of their having pocketed the percentages on that price. Nay, under such circumstances, you will be fortunate if they do not refuse to pay you anything, on the plea that you fraudulently "overestimated" your property. Suits based upon this ground are reported almost every day; and the original chair of St. Peter would represent to an Insurance Company only so much hard wood and upholstery "in inferior condition." In other words, what you pay the companies depends upon your own inclination; what you receive from them may be expressed by the following formula: a being the insured person, b the Insurance Company, and c the yearly premium, the unknown quantity, z (the sum paid to the insured in case of fire), may be traced to this solution :

$$x = \frac{a - cm}{b}$$

Now, in view of the immense and daily in creasing amount of legislation with which our happy country is blessed, would it not be well for our honorable Senators and Assemblymen to enforce equity by law in these cases? There are detectives enough to ferret out, and enactments enough to punish, any persons seeking to defraud the Insurance Companies by taking out policies on worthless articles, incendiarism, or by other fraudulent devices and the companies may refuse to take what they consider excessive risks; but, having once accepted a risk and received year after year a premium thereon, determined by themselves, they certainly should be held to their part of the bargain, if the contingency occur, to provide for which so many payments have been made to them. If John Smith value his small house at \$40,000, for the reason that his grandfather and his father were born and died in it, and wish to insure it for that sum, the companies have a perfect right to decline issuing a policy on the ground that the house is not worth a quarter of such valuation; but if, as is too often the case, they deliver to John Smith a gorgeously emblazoned document with "Forty Thousand Dollars" inserted in a clerkly hand in a conspicuous place, and demand eighty-eight dollars yearly thereafter from John Smith, they assuredly should not be allowed, after the house is burned down-when John Smith's part of the compact has been fulfilled and their part begins—to recede from the agreement.

Another arbitrary "vermilion edict" of these companies is to the effect that your policy is canceled by the fact of your insuring in a second company without the consent of the first. Now, if our view be correct, namely, that each company binds itself, in consideration of a fixed and positive percent. age in the present, to pay under a possible contingency the capital sum represented by that percentage, no other plea than that of obvious fraudulent intent on the part of the insured person can dissolve the contract. Suppose, for instance, that the owner of a house worth \$20,000 insures it for only \$5,000 in one company, and desires to cover its entire value by three additional similar insurances in three other companies, is it right that he should be forced to ask the permission of the company he first patronized, or lose the benefit of the money he has paid to it? It may be argued that these stipulations are necessary to protect the companies against the designs of dishonest men, who, if permitted, would insure a bailding for ten times its value, and burn it down to obtain the enormous profit thus accruing; but we reply, that the law gives ample redress in such cases, and that circumstantial evidence is construed generally against the accused in arson trials. Besides, under what theory of political economy may the upright be made to

suffer for the possible actions of the unjust?

If it be decided that Insurance Companies assume liabilities not dependent merely upon the appraised value of property, but upon the representative percentage they exact, it can make no difference whether a house or its contents be insured for ten thousand or ten hundred

Sold San J.

from some of your respected ancestors, you | tion, the companies should be held responsible for the entire amount upon which they have received premiums, unless, of couse, felonious complicity or agency in the destruction can be proven upon the insured. The question should not be, "What is the current value of the articles destroyed?" but, "Upon what sum, as stated in the policy, did the company demand a premium?" Each company undertakes a possible future hazard for a sure present advantage; and the obligations of such a contract cannot be altered after the advantage has been gained by the fact that twenty other companies have incurred similar risks for similar advantages.

> TREBE is no more gratifying paragraph in Governor Fenton's Message to the Legislature of New York than that relating to our Common Schools. The money raised for their support during the past year was \$3,874,232, of which \$5,591,000 was by voluntary local taxation. There are 11,580 school-houses in the State, and 1,113,147 books in the District School libraries. Not less than 974,162 the District School libraries. Not less than 974,162 children have attended school, and the regular daily attendance in the schools is 44.5 per cent. of the total number of children in the State between six and seventeen years of age.

THE Annual Report of the Police shows that during the past year nearly eighty million (79,-925,000) persons crossed the ferries leading to this This is about double the entire population of the United States.

We have now not less than fifty-four ironelad war-vessels "lying-up," namely, twenty-four in Philadelphia, eight at New Orleans, eight at Mound City, and fourteen elsewhere. The House of Representatives has passed a joint resolution, in which the Senate will no doubt concur, authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to dispose of such of these as he may think fit, at a price to be de-termined by the appraisal of a board of five naval officers. So there is now a chance for Euro-pean States and our pugnacious Spanish-American neighbors to go into the hardware and old iron Uncle Sam seems disposed to go into the real-estate business. It argues very forcibly that our people do not fear immediate attack from out-side when they go so deliberately into disarmament. The deterioration of iron vessels is rapid, and the proposed sale is sound policy. But we should keep our hands well in, by constructing annually a certain number of new and improved vessels, so as to keep the vantage-ground already gained, and not be caught napping or behind-

AT the opening of the January term of the Court of General Sessions, Judge Russel, in his charge to the Grand Jury, passed in review many of the evils to which this community have been subjected, and that latterly have more than usually attracted public atten-tion. In relation to the Excise Law, while admitting that the act must be obeyed while on the statute book, the judge deprecated the passing of moral laws applying to only a portion of our citizens, and stated that the assertion of benefits resulting from the law was not supported by his experience as a criminal magistrate, In allusion to the Tenement-House Law, the jury were charged that the enactment should be enforced in all its details; and to that the popular sentiment will cry, "Amen!" It is evident that the owners of tenementhouses have been exceedingly negligent in regard to provisions for the stelly of their tenants; and with the record of the fearful consequences of that neglect before the Grand Jury, it is to be hoped that the subject will the Grand Jury, it is to be hoped that the subject will be treated with appropriate earnesiness and severity. Judge Russel, in his charge concerning the carrying of deadly weapons, although he condemns the use of them except in extreme cases, does not seem to encourage any attempt to legislate the practice away altogether. He says "it has been suggested that the Legislature should go so far as to make the concealed or secret carrying of every species of deadly weapon an offense. Grave doubts have been intimated as to the constitutionality of such a law. It might he of quastionable tionality of such a law. It might be of questionable policy, too; for it is not to be forgotten that the denial of the right to a peaceable citizen to carry a weapon, under certain circumstances, for his defense, might subject him to highway robbery or other crimes against his person. If peaceable citizens were not permitted to arm in their own defense, the effect might be that felons would be the only persons who were armed." felons would be the only persons who were armed." If this view of the subject is correct, the best remedy is to make the practice of carrying deadly weapons universal, with the understanding that they be carried openly, so that the "felons" may be aware that they cannot assail peaceable citizens without having a Roland for their Oliver. If necessary, let us return to the custom of the olden time, when gentlemen carried their represents the thing sides on even or further. their rapiers by their sides—or even go further, and familiarise the public with the spectacle of quiet, mid-looking citizens walking the streets with revolvers and bowie-knives thrust in their belts, and rifles and shot-guns on their shoulders.

President Johnson has received a gold medal from the First Constitutional Club of Pennsylvania. It is three inches in diameter, with an excellent likeness of the President on one side, the date of his birth and of On the reverse is the following in-With scription: "With courage and fidelity he defended the Constitution, and by justice and magnanimity re-stored alienated States." The medal was struck at the mint in Philadelphia, and cost nearly four hundred dollars.

The Commissioners of Charities and Correction, at No. 1 Bond street, receive applications from one thousand persons daily, and they form a line from the desk in the office out in the street one hundred feet long. Those who apply for fuel are furnished with a form of application in blank, which, having been filled and the statements sworm to, a quarter of a ton of coal is sent to the applicant, with the understanding that two more shall be sent before the 1st of March, Those who are in immediate want of money receive one do-lar, and a.v. told to call again in two weeks. What sad records of poverty and suffering could be gathered from the experience of that army of unfortunates!

There is, we fear, in some of our communities, a dis-position to neglect some of those anniversaries associinsured for ten thousand or ten hundred ated with glorious events in the national history. The meand dollars; in case of its total destruc-

th inst., was not publicly celebrated in this city beyond the hoisting of the flags on the City Hall. At Washington, the day was made the occasion for a ban-quet at the Metropolitin Hotel, at which the President, some of the heads of the departments, most of the Democratic members of Congress, and many distin-guished guests, were present. The sentiment of the festival and the speeches delivered were, however, some-what of a partisen character, and could not be strictly nsidered as forming a national demonstration

The Opening of Our New Opera House.

THE critic has no greater pleasure than that of welcoming back upon the boards—whether they are those of the Lecture-room, the Theatre, the Pulpit, or even of Congress—an old friend who has been absent from them and him for several years. It was conse-quently with no common pleasure that on Thursday evening last, we took our seats in Pike's new Palace of Music, on the western side of Eighth avenue and one of the corpora of Twenty-third street, for the purpose of the corners of Twenty-third street, for the purpose of listening to the voices and looking upon the faces of two old friends. It may be true that our friendship was not of that familiar class which we are accustomed to cherish with the doves of our hearts, or with respectable and wealthy acquaintances. It was simply that distant friendship which exists between a pair of ears or eyes in front of, and a throat and limbs correspond-ing, behind the toot-lights.

Be this as it may, we had gone there for the purpose

seeing them.

The "them" was La Grange and Brignoli

We saw La Grange, but we did not see Brignoli. The tenore had "barked" his shins, or scraped his ankle, or damaged his throat, or suicidedly committed upon his own flesh and bloed some injury which pre-vented his appearing. Let us state, for the benefit of managers generally, and M. Strakosch in particular, that the man who puts his trust in a tenore, save he be one like Saivi, whose voice was half gone, and who were shooting boots and a rough jacket in wet weather, and consequently rarely or never disappointed an audience, is a confounded—but, no! we will refrain from writing our opinion. As we rather like M. Strakosch, we will let his philosophy, such as it is, pass unattended to.

our opinion, As we rather like M. Strakosch, we will let his philosophy, such as it is, pass unattended to.

The operawas "Trovatore," which was not improved by the absence of Brignoli, whose supplement upon this occasion was Massimiliani, who not being used to such a large house, was caught by the audience singing falsely, and received a gentle reminder not to strain his work.

woice. We had, however, La Grange and Phillips.
From the very first hour in which we listened to La Grange, we had thought, as we invariable said, that if she did not possess the sweetest or ireshest voice, she was indisputably the greatest as well as the most conscientious vocalist, the aforesaid Salvi excepted in the case of conscience, we had ever had in this country.

conscientious vocalist, the aforesaid Salvi excepted in the case of conscience, we had over had in this country.

An artist may lose his or her voice.

Skill and conscience are parts of himself and herself. As long as brain with a fair share of health and strength continue, these must remain with them.

Therefore is it that Anna De La Grange comes back to us less changed than any sports ow who has been without the range of our hearing for so many years. She is, as she formerly was, the finest vocalist, as a soprosso, who has ever appealed to the ears of the American critical public. Possibly she may have a triffe more of age in her voice as she has in her flesh. But in the first, it is so alight that we scarcely notice it, while in the last, it is decidedly improving to her personal appearance. Her execution is as clear, pure, and bird-like as ever. Yet, let us frankly own that we did not wait to hear whether it was so before we greeted her. Our applause was impulsively given to her when she first came upon the stage—a singular thing is it for us to applaud at all—before she had even uttered a note. That applause was the grateful utterance of memory and faith. We are delighted to say that the last of them was not in error.

The contraito was Adelaide Phillips, possibly the finest contraite on the modern stace since the days of Alboni—none, also, whom, from some singular cause, we see much too seldom in opera in New York.

Her Amorac was a grand impersonation, both in action and vocalism. Formerly the strength of her voice somewhat verged, in its exo-ution, upon coarseness. We have now none of this undue power to reproach her with. In the second act, in the cave, she sang and acted with splendid power and consummate shandonment to her part, as she did subsequently throughout the opera, being received with as warm applause as that which had greeted the first appearance of La Grange.

applause as that which has greeced applause as that which has greeced. The Conte di Luna was Signor Orlandini. Little need be said of him, save that he sings satisfactorily, and possenses a light barytone voice, verging upon teno

The Conte at Land was signor or final min. Late a lead possesses a light barytone voice, verging upon tenor quality.

For the size of the house, the orchestra was somewhat light, and might well have been strengthened, if the somewhat scanty space allotted to it by the architect had been larger. It seems strange, but this is the only portion of the theatre which is deficient in room. Vestibule, boxoffices, corridors, staircases, parquette and balcony are arranged with a princely disregard to size, and a lavish magnificence, which render Pike's Opera House the grandest theatre in New York, and on Thursday the loilettes of the female portion of the audience were in accordance with the schendor of the surrounding decorations. Such a blaze of handsomely-dressed and be-diamonded beauty we have rarely seen during the past season. We may, consequently, congratulate Mr. Pike very sincerely upon the success of this attempt to carry fashion out of its usual beat. Whether he will retain it with him it is somewhat too early to predict, but we trust that he may do so. The daring he has displayed in erecting so magnificent a dramatic or operatic temple—we care not which he chooses to call lime of fashionable travel, demands from all who may toil for the pleasure or instruction of the public in the gentier arise a cordial sympathy. Therefore is it that unfeignedly and heartily we hope for his thorough success. Whether pecunarily successful or not, little doubt can exist that he has conferred an actual and very sensible benefit upon that portion of New York in which he has reared this opera house. Moreover, it is a benefit which, if he can afford to wait, must ultimately payinm well, whatever its present result may be to his pocket.

We have, while speaking of Mr. Pike, emitted tailing to the pleasure.

him well, whatever us present resum may be an apocket.

We have, while speaking of Mr. Pike, emitted to allude to the chorus. We did so for the simple reason that is was as indifferent as the ordinary run of operatic choruses. The "Anvil Chorus," especial " formed no exception to this well-experienced indifference.

Upon Friday evening "Norma" was given to another crowded house, affording La Grange the opportunity of appearing in one of her greatest characters. Upon Saturday an "inaugural" matinée offered the public "Il Trovatore" for a second time.

Vandenhoff will read selections from Shakespeare and Dickens at Dodworth's Hall on the evenings of January

ART GOSSIP.

RECURRING to the water-color exhibition, we take note that Mr. G. H. Boughton, for some years past a resident of London, but previously well and favorably known here, has sent over a very charming contribu-tion. "Pride and Humility," No. 257, is a composition of two young girls kneeling on tall-backed chairs at their devotions. One is pretty, and quite aware of the their devotions. One is pretty, and quite aware or the fact; and although of the rustic order, she is evidently quite de rigueur in the fashions of the place. The face of the other is not displayed, for she has bent it down upon her bands, but from the poverty of her apparel,

we can see that she belongs to a very humble class. This little picture is finished with much care, and is

excellent in color.

excellent in color.

Mr. W. Luson Thomas, an English artist, not wholly unknown to fame, has contributed several drawings to this exhibition, and of these we shall speak just as they happen to come before us in our note-book. Here is his idealization of "Margaret" (from Faust), No. 394. She is at her spinning wheel of course, and engaged in admiring the jewels which she has just taken from the casket. A vector write maiden has Mr. Thomas we casket. A pretty, rustic maiden, has Mr. Thomas pre-sented to us as his ideal of Margaret, and the glow of color in the picture is effective. The girl is much too sented to us as his ideal of Margaret, and the glow of color in the picture is effective. The girl is much too commonplace for Goëthe's Margaret however. She lacks the dignity that is inseparable from that charming creation of the poet's fancy; but as a mere representation of a good-looking country lass at a spinning-wheel, the picture has much merit.

Very rich and sweet in color is a "Study of Morning Glories," No. 416, by Mr. S. Colman, who is an extensive contributor in landscape to the exhibition under notice. His "Twilight near Gilead, Maine," No. 467, for instance, has a colemn soutiment of the mystic hour

notice. His "Twilight near Glicad, Maine," No. 407, for instance, has a solemn sentiment of the mystic hour in it, and is painted with much force.

In "Twilight on the Hudson River," No. 468, by Mr. Mr. T. C. Farrer, we cannot recognize the purple color by which the scene is pervaded as being true to nature. At least it never has been our fortune to behold nature under a phase so neculiar. under a phase so peculiar.

In a "Study from Nature," No. 482, Mr. F. F. Dur-

and displays a careful style of working that might almost be termed pre-Raphaelitish. But then he sees nature with truer eyes than many of the students of that school do, and the result is, that nature is quite

that school do, and the result is, that nature is quite recognizable in his rocks, and mosses, and trees.

Owing to the closing of the Academy from the 6th to the 9th of January, for the reception of new pictures, we have not at present any further notes regarding the water-color exhibition, to which, however, we shall return from time to time. Of art notes in general, we give a lew herewith.

Mr. S. J. Guy is engaged upon a cabinet picture of a character subject. It represents a boy in a stable—a rather lounging sort of youngster—who is entirely absorbed in the music produced by him from the ancient instrument known as the "Jow's Harp." 'the expression and attitude of the boy are very natural and characteristic.

sorbed in the music produced by him from the ancient instrument known as the "Jow's Harp." 'the expression and attitude of the boy are very natural and characteristic.

A rising, and already successful painter in the ministure figure gener by which Meissonier has become so famous, is Mr. J. Beautain Irving. The bacems so famous, is Mr. J. Beautain Irving. The bacems and best—picture in this style yet painted by Mr. Irving we saw in his studio a few days since. The composition is simple enough—two old gentlemen in the rich costume of the last century, engaged in confidential chat over their wine. Not only for high finish is this picture one of remarkable excellence, but also for the capital manner in which the heads are painted. This branch of art is one in which Mr. Irving evidently works con amore, and for his success in which nothing but encouragement is needed.

Mr. J. G. Brown paints so many subjects, and so rapidly, that one finds it difficult to keep pace with him. On our last visit to his studio we were shown several pictures in a more or less forward stags of progress. One of a pretty child, holding over her head, for a parasol, a broad leaf plucked from the hedge. A larger picture than Mr. Brown generally paints when he takes children for his subject, is one lately finished by him. It represents a glade in a wood, with fine old trees, about the stem of which two pretty children are playing at "hide and seek. The woodland shimmer is excellently rendered in this picture.

A large landscape by M. A. D. Shattuck is now receiving the finishing touches from the hand of the artist. It will soon be placed on exhibition in one of the public galleries, and we will then have an opportunity to speak of it in detail.

The line-engraved portrait of General Grant, on which Mr. W. Marshall has been engaged for some time past, is now finished, and will shortly be published by Messra. Ticknor & Fields.

The same publishers have just issued a lithographic portrait of Charles Dickens, from the pencil of 80. Evinge, Jr. A'

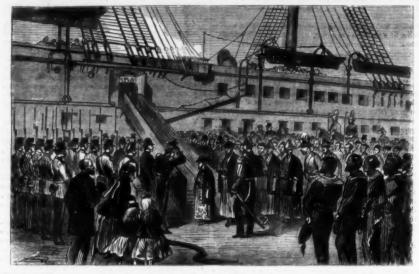
The O'Baldwin Testimonial-Prize Fighters and "Sports" at the Casino.

ENLIGHTENMENT seems to struggle in vain against the foibles, the weaknesses, the vices of human nature. In fact, as society becomes civilized, it invents new vices instead of abandoning the old ones. It is heartly to be wished that the journalist had no such theme as prize-fighting on which to comment; but the institution, brutal, disgraceful, and demoralizing as it is, asserts itself as a fact, in spite of the deprecation of moralists, the exhortations of theologians, the efforts of legislators, and the opposition of the machinery of

Let it be announced that a prize fight-between two celebrated bruisers is in preparation, and our commu-nities, throughout the length and breadth of the land, yield to the influences of curiosity and excitement, and yield to the influences of curiosity and excitement, and live in an apparently pleasant expectancy of the event, How wrong! how snocking! exclaims society; but nevertheless society waits with impatience for the day, and meanwhile makes a close study of the gladiators, weighs their comparative fighting merits, passes them through the ordeal of criticism, and exerts itself deliberately to work up the public interest in the affair to a degree of intensity that must be highly acceptable and profitable to the sporting fragraphy. "Strike!" said: profitable to the sporting fraternity. "Strike!" said the spostle, "but hear!" "Abuse us," say the prise-fighters, "but see us strike!" And society, groaning with sorrow to know that such things be, peeps trom under its mask and enjoys the show.

There are giants in these days; and O'Bs among us with six-feet-six of puglistic individuality longitudinally, and breadth of shoulders, depth of chest, and length of limb, in proportion. Much as we need the hone and sinew of the Old World to strengthen our republicanism, we could wish that England, out of its superabundance of muscle, would send us some thing more identified with the shovel and the hoe than with champions' bult and roped arena. But the O'Bald-win is here, and has established himself securely as a win is nere, and nas essentiated minetal sections as a lion; and taking the occasion to present the public with the counterfeit presentments of the prominent heroes of the ring in this country, we rannot be held responsible for the fact that they exist, and that they occupy no inconsiderable share of popular attention. occupy no incommercate state of popular action. The O'Baldwin testimonial at the Casino, on Friday, the 3rd inst., brought together beneath one roof nearly all the prominent sports in this country; and as the public may be curious to know what manner of men the glad, interest of our day are in outward seeming, we have faithfully portrayed the scene upon the front page of this paner.

The Pictorial Spirit of the Illustrated European Press.



PRINCE TOKUGAWA MINBUTAIHO, BROTHER OF THE TYCOON OF JAPAN, VISITING H. M. S. ROYAL SOVEREIGN AT POBTSMOUTH.

The Brother of the Tycoon at Portsmouth. | a guest in England, is the brother of the Tycoon, or The su-cess that has attended the efforts of our Gov- | Saigon of Japan, who succeeded to the government in ernment to extend the commercial relations between | the beginning of last year. He will probably succeed



BUBNING OF THE BELLEVILLE THEATRE, PARIS.

Government, who have already appointed a military governor for him, and established his household in Paris. He is represented as being remarkably intelligent and courteous, and takes great interest in military governor for him, and established his household in Paris. He is represented as being remarkably intelligent and courteous, and takes great interest in military governor for him, and established his household in Paris. The details of the Clerken well Explosion. The details of the Fenian gunpowder plot at Clerken well explosion.



EFFECTS OF THE EXPLOSION AT THE HOUSE OF DETENTION, CLERKENWELL, LONDON, ENGLAND.



THE MPERIAL STABLES OF THE LOUVRE, MENAGE OF THE PAVILLION CAULINCOURT, FRANCE.



EMBELL'ISHMENTS OF PARIS-CUT THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN OF ST. GENEVIEVE FOR OPENING THE BUE MONGE.

this country and Japan, gives present interest to every-the present Tycoon, should the latter die without child-thing connected with the dealings of the Japanese with foreign countries. Prince Tokugawa Minbutaiho, now



THE STUDENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF LONDON, AT THEIR FAVORITE GAME OF FOOTBALL.

tary matters. Of course the English Government showed him every possible attention, and left nothing undone to render his visit instructive.

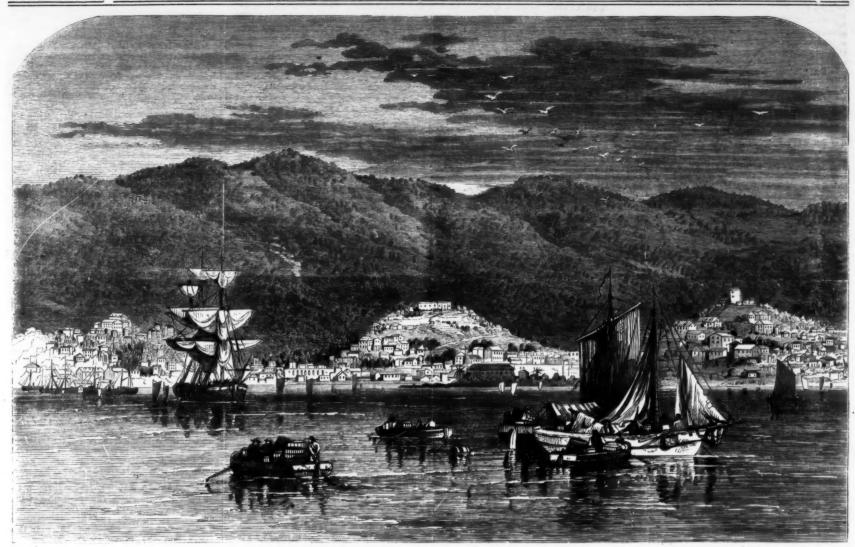
convey an accurate impression of the destructive effects of that explosion. The illustration that we furnish will supply the necessary information in appealing



THE HALL OF CONFERENCE OF THE CORPS LEGISLATIVE, PARIS.



THE CHARDA-TURKISH NAME OF THE INNS ON THE PRAIRIES OF HUNGARY.



THE TOWN AND HARBOR OF ST. THOMAS, WEST INDIES.—SEE PAGE 290.

to the eye with its truthful representation of ruin. The object of this plot was to effect the escape of two prisoners, Richard Burke and Joseph Theobald Casey, by blowing down the outer wall of the House of Detention at Clerkenwell with a barrel of gunpowder. The prisoners did not escape, but the mischief done was ter-rible. Several houses in the neighborhood were de-stroyed, a man, a woman, and two little children killed, and forty or fifty persons wounded.

Cut Through the Mountain St. Genevieve, for Opening the Rue Monge, Paris.

for Opening the Rue Monge, Paris.

No ruler was ever a better patron of industry and of public improvements than Louis Napoleon. Under his energizing influences and with his encouragement and assistance the work of embellishing Paris is progressing rapidly. The Rue Monge, recently inaugurated, was opened by cutting through the Bt, Genevaeve Mountain. Our own city government might, with profit to this community, take some inspiration from the earnestness and success with which the French Emperor is pushing the labor of municipal improvement.

Deputies of the French Corps Legislatif, in the Conference Chamber.

Our illustration of the French Deputies consulting before commencing the legislative business of the day, will give some idea of the personnel of that parliamentary

body, upon whose deliberation depends in a measure the political condition of France, perhaps the peace of Europe. There are some flery spirits among those deputies; men of powerful intellect, strong passions, and boundless ambition, who could only be kept in check by such a master diplomatist and intriguer as Napoleon. It may not be uninteresting to compare those heads and physiognomies of the leading politicians of France with the features and physical characteristics of the well-known legislators of our own characteristics of the well-known legislators of our own

Burning of the Belleville Theatre, Paris.

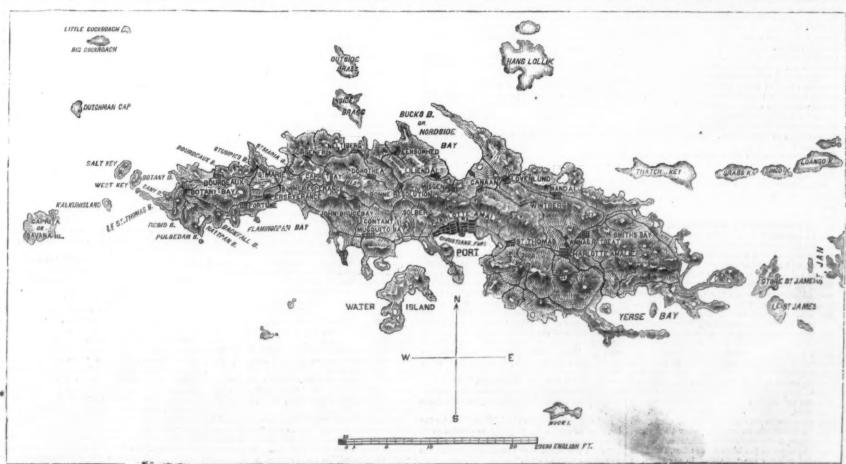
At half-past three o'clock on the morning of the 11th of December of last year, the Belleville Theatre in Paris was destroyed by fire. After the night's performance one of the corporals of the Fire Department visited the theatre and detected no signs of fire. At half-past the theatre and detected no signs of fire. At half-past three o'clock, some of the neighbors, awakened by the barking of the manager's dog, perceived a red glare in the room where the scenery was stored. The alarm was given, the lamplighter hurried to the scene-room, but upon opening the door, was compelled to retreat, as the flames came bursting forth. The fire made rapid progress before the engines reached the spot. They did active work when they arrived, but it was impossible to arrest the conflagration. At half-past five the cupola fell in and buried several firemen beneath the

in breadth, ignited by thirteen large windows. It is divided into three parts by twelve gigapatic columns reaching to the roof, which is finely painted and orna-mented in brick-work. The capitals of these columns are sculptured, representing the heads of horses, and the bridles, saddles and harness of different and the bridles, saddles and harness or different nations, together with many other subjects connected with equestrianism, all perfectly harmonizing with the the spirit of the locality. The Prince Imperial took his first lessons in equestrianism in those stables, under the attentive eye of M. Bachon, while the Emperor and Empress, seated upon a tribune, applauded the bold evolutions of the Prince. Opposite the tribune is a vacant space awaiting the equestrian statue of his Majesty Napoleon III., by Barye, which will complete the ornamentation with a chef d'œuvre.

A Game of Football at the London Inter-

A Game of Football at the London International College.

the game of football to render a detailed description unnecessary. An india-rubber ball, with a hard covering of leather, is used in this game. The object is to kick it beyond a line marked by a bar, supported by two upright posts, as seen in the engraving. The players organize into two parties of about sixteen on either side. They are clothed in a peculiar costume suitable to the rough sport, and bear the colors of their respective clubs. The captains draw lots for the advantage of position, and the loser has the privilege of giving the first kick. This equalises the chances as far as possible. The ball having been propelled, the players rush toward it, the one party endeavoring to kick it forward, the other to kick it back. The contestants mingle together with the most reckless disregard of the consequences to their shins, they hurl themselves on the ball, they push, they wreatle, they fight for the vantage-ground. Their elbows, their fists, their feel, and even their heads, are in movement to compel the one in possession of the ball to give place. The thick-soled shoes of the players, coming in contact with shin or ankle, are sure to leave their mark, and sometimes inflict severe injury. After the battle, the contestants can be seen limping from the field, with bruised and battered bodies, and sometimes an unlucky wight is carried off with a broken limb. Our engraving represents the students of the London International the game of football to render a detailed description The American public, or, at least, that portion of it nown as Young America, is sufficiently iamiliar with College indulging in this violent and somewhat dan-



MAP OF THE ISLAND OF ST. THOMAS AND THE DANISH AMERICAN POSSESSIONS IN THE WEST INDIES.

In the "Pussia's"—prairie—of Huagary, can be found small houses standing slone, and often from five to ten miles separated from each other. These houses are prairie-taverne, and called by the Huagarians by Tarkin versus of the control of the interior and extended. the Turkish name Ceards. The interior and exterior of such a caarda are very simple; the exterior shows as very neglected coat of whitewash, and the interior is generally divided into three rooms: the salcon—if we may call it so—for enstoners and passengers, the kitchen and the bedroom for the landlord and his family. The servants have their apartments in the horse-stable, and if some stranger should be obliged to stay during a night in a caarda, he is obliged to sleep as well as he can on the floor of the saloon. The ceards is the piace where the farmer boys from the neighbor-hood come to drink "alibowits," a very strong liquor distilled out of the kernels of plums and peaches, and to quarrel. But as often as a gang of gipsies enters the coquares. But as onen as a gang or greates enters the caarda with their musical instruments, consisting of violins, base, piccole and cimbal, the quarreling ceases, all tables and chairs are put aside, and the dance begins with that passion and vehemence for which the hot-blooded Hungarian dancers are known all over the

WHEN I CAME BACK.

WHEN I came back from distant lands. And weary war was done, I stretched for home my eager hands And thought my battle won. To make me worth my Rachael's love I sought the darkest fray, Forgetting all but God above and my sweet wedding day.

Our band played bravely down the road, Just what our hearts then felt; And I could see the blest abode Where my sweet Rachael dwelt, I saw my mother in the crowd, And clasped her to my heart; She hid her face and wept aloud, And drew me far apart.

No word was spoken but my own, And that was Rachael's name But by its wild and smothered tone It did not sound the same. My mother led through well-known ways, And not a word was said Until we stood with silent gaze, Before a grave new made

With starting eyes, and clinched teeth, I stooped to read the stone; I knew my dead love lay beneath-My beautiful, my own. Oh! sad have been the days since then : I thought my battle won; I stand amid the ranks of men. My battle just begun.

"Our Friend."

At the time of which I write (a few years before the late civil war), five hundred dollars a year was considered a very fair salary; seven hundred and fifty was not to be laughed at, and a man who could boast of a thousand a year was a prince among his fellows. He who could afford five dollar boots, a five dollar hat, and a fifteen dollar coat, was quite a nob; and if a man was extravagant enough to smoke six cent cigars, his reputation as an immense kind of swell was beyond question

At that happy period I was a white-goods salesman in a prominent importing house in town, and was enjoying the not-to-be-laughed-at seven hundred and fifty. I had been some years in the house, had grown with it in fact, and being in a marrying mood, was wanting to have my salary raised to a thousand dollars. In view of the good ection I had in trade, and my long service with the firm, I considered myself worthy of the advance desired; but I resolved that before I should make the request for additional salary, I would venture on a business trip to Boston, and try to get a few orders for some of our goods from certain dealers there who were my particular customers when in the market. In furtherance of this plan I was picking out some samples of our fine muslins and other white goods one day, when I was called into the private office and ushered into the presence of the senior partner.
"Brewster," said he, "I understand that you

are going to Boston to push trade; well, while you are there you can transact some special busi-ness for us. That man Collins, who failed last month, has been offering to compromise. There will be a meeting of all those who hold claim against him in Boston, on Thursday, and one of the committee of creditors writes us, asking us to send on a representative to the meeting. You can undertake this matter for us in conjunction our other busin with all papers required, and we shall write to the committee and inform them whom we are sending, etc., so be ready to start to-morrow.

On the Thursday in question I arrived in Bos ton early in the morning, and put up at the Revere House in company with a fellow salesman; this party bade me good-by soon after breakfast, as parts of the New England States. I felt proud of having been entrusted with this special business, and to carry it out cleverly and to the best advantage for my employers, was the strongest wish of my heart. While examining my papers, and laying out a course for myself, a servant announced that a gentleman was waiting below to see me. Presuming it was some old acquaintance who had seen my name on the book in the office, I told the seen my name on the book in the land as a servant to show the individual to my room. I have a keen relish for the humoreus. When my have a keen reliah for the humoreus. When my visitor—a stranger to me, a stout little man,

gerous pastime, which, whatever its merits, is not likely. | wearing gold-rimmed spectacles, having a plea-in this country, to supersade the national game of baseway about him—was ushered into my presence, and announced himself with : "Have I the pleasure of beholding the great

I laughingly replied:
"You behold the great Browster, sir, whether

affords you pleasure or not. My friend's next sally was :

"It affords me infinite pleasure, I assure you. Why, doctor, how do you do? I am glad to see

Falling in with the spirit of the thing, I accopted the medical appollation quite graciously, and not to be beaten, I answered:
"Thank you, professor, I am very well, and I

hope I see you in good health?'
"Thank you. By-the-way, we did not shake hands—give me your hand. Ah! I like your warm pressure; there is a great deal in the shake of the hand and your forcers clean account mine in the hand, and your fingers clasp around mine in a hearty way that shows you are of a warm tem-perment. You are fond of the pleasures of the

"I am."

"You are a friendly dog, and you like to see

other friendly dogs around you?"

"I plead guilty."
"Are you a married man, sir?"

"No, sir."

"Then there must be some—— By the way, sir, let me tell you who I am. My name is Little, sir, John Little, one of the committee, and your most obedient."

The little man bowed low, and then took off his spectacles and submitted them to a thorough rubng with his pocket-handkerchief. I was glad to learn who the odd personage was—he had given me cause to wonder who he was—and I was all the more pleased to know that he was one of the

"This is a very happy circumstance," said I, "and it was thoughtful in you to look for me—I appreciate your kindness heartily."

"Don't mention it, I beg of you. I am not the chairman of the committee, but learning that the chairman was ill, and knowing that you would be in town this morning, I made bold to drop down here to the hotel and inquire for you. Your name on the register, sir, assured me of your presence.

By-the-way, sir, do you do your own shaving?"
"A barber never placed his sacrilegious steel to my chin, sir."

"I admire your economy and caution, sir-beware of the barbers, doctor, beware of the barbers, there's poison in their lather. And now let me say that I am glad to have met you; you are fully prepared, and have all necessary papers and memoranda, of course?"

"Speaking figuratively, professor, I am armed and equipped as the law directs. And now, at what hour do the committee meet?" "At sharp five, sir, and at my house—there is

my card and address."

I thought it a strange hour for a business meeting, and wondered a little that a private dwelling should be named as the meeting-place; nevertheless, I presumed it was the way they had in Boston, and so did not question.

Now it is customary among some business men when speaking of a party who is under consideration, or whose name they do not wish to use in presence of another, to designate the individual meant by "Our Friend;" so, when wishing to refer to Collins, I asked my odd visitor:

"Eh? oh, besutiful! beautiful! In fact-"Besutiful?"

'And how is 'Our Friend'?"

prevention.

"Yes, sir; excuse my enthusiasm—but keep mum! All's over now, but we must not shout until we are out of the woods. The fact is, I have taken a great risk, and have 'Our Friend' safe in my own house, and well guarded."
"You fancied, then, that he was going to take

leave suddenly. "Well, I thought he might be helped to take leave, at any rate-so I made use of an ounce of

"But, professor, should not the law—"
"The law is an ass, sir; excuse me, but don't
be the least alarmed about the law—sufficient unto the day is the evening thereof. By-the-way,

do you like crullers?" Wondering still at this queer little men, but still inclined to keep in with his humor, I answered

"I have a great fondness for them, sir."

"Do you take milk and sugar in your tea, and do you like home-made bread?"

I take both milk and sugar, sir, and home

made bread is an especial favorite."
"And when the more substantial part of the feast is on the board; when roast beef sits king at the head of the table, and looks smilingly

down upon his court, upon the lesser meats, the succulent vegetables, the piquant sauces, and, perchance, an odd decanter of wine, and a halfozen or so of English ale—then, sir, then do you feel like sitting down to that board with thankfu ness in your heart, and with a resolution to do your duty as becomes a man and a good liver?"

Warmed by my questioner's warmth, and totally forgetting the strangeness of the man in a momentary vision of the festive board, I answered:

"Those feelings would be mine, sir, I assure you; and nothing would please me better than to such a board, with you in the chair at its

"Excellent! you are a bon vivant, and a prince of-but I am detaining you, you must have leisure to sort your papers, and prepare yourself-good-

And without more ado Mr. Little started for the the door of my room, stopping to exclaim as he passed into the hall :

"I did not think that the great Brewster was as young a man as he is."

"An odd fish, truly," said I to myself, as the

sound of my visitor's footsteps died away. I sat

thinking for a long time over his queer manner and out-of-the-way questions. It seemed very strange to me that a business man should talk as he had talked; and his taking the law into his own hands in the Collins affair puzzled me beyond

"He must be an eccentric person," thought I, "who has a peculiar way of managing affairs, and whose manner is excusable on account of his

My employers had given me the address of a party to whom I was to apply for such informa-tion as I might desire relative to the case in hand, but after being posted by my visitor I concluded it would not be necessary to spend time in searching for this party.

My success among my customers that day was beyond my expectations, and the mail that went to New York in the evening carried a letter of mine, containing orders that spoke good words for me to the firm.

At five o'clock precisely I was at Mr. Little's

door, and was received by the gentleman himself in his reception room a moment later.

"Ah, on time, I see! Good! you are a man to be trusted; a fit example for the committee, not one member of which has reported himself.
Well, we shall not keep tea waiting for them—do
you say grace at your table, sir?"
I replied in the affirmative.

"A commendable practice, sir-allow me to precede you on a short journey to my diningroom. I am not married, sir, but you will find my housekeeper a very amiable lady."

The housekeeper was quite matronly in appearance, and acknowledged the name of Martha. The leading dish on the table was crullers, and my tea was handed me milked and sugared—how suggestive of the questions put to me in the orning!

My host asked the divine blessing afte my tea was given me, and kept up a running fire of questions during the whole of the meal, giving a thrust at the committee occasionally, as thoughts of their failure to keep the five o'clock appoint-ment came into his mind. "Do you think 'Our Friend' will meet our ex-

ns?" asked I, as we sat for a moment

when tea was over.

"In full, sir, in full; in fact, he will do more than I expected of him at first."

This was very satisfactory to me, as I was naturally anxious to have a good report to give the firm. It puzzled me somewhat as to why Little had captured Collins, and imprisoned him in such an illegal manner. To ascertain his motive for it, and to find who had sanctioned the desperate act, was now upon my mind. I disliked to ask a direct question, lest my host should think I was too presumptuous, so I began in a roundabout 'And how does 'Our Friend' bear his imprison-

"Like a hero, sir; like a hero! eh? ha! ha! ha! He is a most uncomplaining prisoner, I assure you! ha! ha! ha!—that was a pleasantry, sir—why do you not laugh?"

I must confess that I did not see wherein the pleasantry lay, nor did the matter seem any clearer to me when I thought of Mr. Little's merriment. And why should Collins be an uncom-plaining prisoner? My failure to show an appreiation of the "pleasantry" drew forth:
"Ah, I see you feel bothered over the delay oc-

casioned by that confounded committee. Had they been here in time we should have 'Our

Friend' in complete working order now."
"Complete working order! Well, that must be a Boston technicality," thought I, "so I shall not

"Suppose we go up and take a look at him?"
"If you please, professor," answered I, only too glad of the chance to see our victim.

"Now, doctor-take my word for it-he's pretty a specimen (and you'll say it, too) of his kind as one could wish for. Do you smoke?" "I-I-do I like a pretty specimen, did you

'No; I asked you if you smoked?"

"Oh, yes, I smoke." Well, come in here."

My host unlocked a door at his hand, and we

"You keep 'Our Friend' well under lock and

ey," I remarked.
"Yes, sir: fast bind, fast find, eh? Ha! ha! Now, sir, there is as prime an Havana as ever was turned into smoke. Light up now, and we shall have more to-night. Yes, doctor, I tell you he is a fine specimen—I followed your directions to the letter

You followed my directions!"

"Yes, sir—yes, sir; and you were confoundedly xplicit, too. What makes you stare so? Ha! I explicit, too. fancy you are not used to smoking—here is a milder cigar. Well, sir, as I have said, I followed your directions, and he is now as clean and as white as if he were made of ivory."

"As clean and as white as if he were made of exclaimed I, in a half-bewildered way "then he—he must be—be very clean indeed!"
"You will say so when you see him. We had

trouble in getting the flesh off him-he was tough, warrant you-and when we came to scrape him it was slow work; but your solution did the

"You had trouble in getting the flesh off him! Bless me! what do you mean?" asked I, now thoroughly alarmed.

"I mean just what I say. Is not that cigar too much for you? Yes, sir—I mean just what I say, and, to stop further argument, let us look at the individual."

Mr. Little seized two sliding-doors as he spoke and when they were alid off to either aide I stood confronted with something that almost froze my blood. Suspended from the ceiling of the room was "Our Friend," in the shape of a large male

I drew back, involuntarily, exclaiming:

"Oh, horror! Professor, have you killed

"Killed him! Ha! ha! That's a good joke! Killed him: By George, sir, he was dead enough when I got him, I assure you." Suddenly I became suspicious of my host. His

strange manner, his odd questions, and the peculiarity of his general behavior came before me more forcibly than ever.

more forcibly than ever.

"He is insane," thought I; "he is insane.

And he decoyed Collins here, under pretense of arranging a settlement with him, and killed him in order to gratify some mania of his. He has heard of me, has sought me out, and decoyed me here, too, to suffer poor Collins's fate !"

My brain, already over-taxed, reeled under this last thought; the skoleton seemed to gibber at me; the room began whirling round; and as my host apparently made a plunge for me with uplifted knife, I fell to the floor.

THE first indication that I had of returning usness was the hearing of several voice

"He will be himself again in a moment. Yes, gentlemen, the sight of the skeleton was too much for him; and I have been wondering ever since how it was it affected him so," said the voice

of Mr. Little.
"A nice doctor he is!" said a younger voice. "I have helped to cut up but one man yet; still a whole room full of "stiffs" and skeletons would

not floor me." I opened my eyes, and found myself lying upon a lounge. Mr. Little was kneeling beside me, and three gentlemen in handsome black suits were standing about. As the thoughts of what had happened came rushing over me, I shuddered and raised my hands, as if trying to avert some

threatened danger. Why, you are not in your senses yet!" exclaimed Mr. Little. "But, come; these gentle-men are the members of the committee for whom we are waiting, and they are anxious to proceed

Mr. Little placed his hand upon me as he spoke, as if to assist me to arise. Still dreading him, I drew back from his touch, although there was kindness in his voice and looks, and, appealing to the strangers, I exclaimed:

"Gentlemen, where am I? and in whose hands am I? Have I been duped into this? Is this man a murderer? Is—" man a murderer? Is-

"You are laboring under a serious mistake, ir," interrupted one of the gentlemen. Little has related to us what occurred above, and we are surprised to hear of an exhibition of such behavior on your part, when, as you well know, the skeleton was prepared for you under your own particular orders.'

"The skeleton was prepared for me under my own particular orders?" exclaimed I, forgetting

own particular orders: exchanned is respecting my fright in this new perplexity.

"Yes, sir; most certainly it was!" answered Mr. Little, rather sharply. "You wrote me to have one prepared, immediately after our making.

the arrangements for you to deliver the lecture."
"To deliver the lecture!" shouted I, bouncing to my feet under the influence of the fresh insinua "Gentlemen, I assure you that I never delivered a lecture in my life, and I never intend

to. There is a lecture for you in snort mand.
"Why, confound it, sir, you astonish me!" answered Mr. Little, bristling up. "You astonish me beyond precedent! Of course it cannot be

me beyond precedent: Of course it cannot be possible that you are not Launcelot Brewster, M. D., the medical lecturer?"

"Such a thing is possible," said I, for indeed I am simply plain John Brewster, and am as innocent of an M. D. as I am ignorant of the first principles of medical science." principles of medical science.

"Then, why, sir, did you lead me astray this norning, when, after acknowledging yourself to be a Brewster, you allowed me to call you 'doctor.' and in turn spoke to me by my rightful title of 'professor'? And why did you give such plausible answers to my questions concerning papers, etc.? and why were you so glad to see me as one of the committee? Explain this all, if you please," said Mr. Little, while a glance or two of indignation shot through his spectacles. Seeing that a most absurd blunder had been

committed between us, I gave a detailed account of what had brought me to Boston, and cleared up the matter of "doctor" and "professor" in a manner quite satisfactory to my listeners. The laugh was against Mr. Little.

"Just like you, professor," said the eldest of the three strangers, turning to Mr. Little, "with your usual hastiness you have been taking every-thing for granted, although goodness knows you must have asked questions enough to have given you a true idea of how matters stood. Not only is our proposed lecture likely to be a failure through this blunder, but this gentleman has neglected an important part of his duty through having been led astray."

The professor was profuse with his apologies. It appeared that the Browster had been engaged lecture before the students of the -- medical college; that "Our Friend," the skeleton, had, at a great risk, been prepared especially for this lecture, from a corpse furnished by "body-snatchers;" that the Brewster was to have arrived that morning in order to deliver his lecture in the evening; that he was to have been met at the Revere House; and that "the committee" had been appointed to receive him at Mr. Little's res. idence, and conduct him to the secture-room. Immediately after the clearing up of our little mystery, the professor started for the Revere Hone to try and hunt up the bona-fide Brewster. Knowing that I could accomplish nothing in the Collins matter that evening, I accepted an invitation from the committee and went with them to the college. On our way there I was informed that the professor was a well-meaning but eccentric man, whose chief failing lay in asking many questions, many of them odd enough in their way, but generally put with a view to some pur-

Shortly after our arrival in the lecture-room of the college, Little bore his man in triumph-He, the professor, contrived to reach me a mo-ment before the lecture began, and whispered:

"Glad I made the blunder, after all, provided

there will be no inconvenience result to you from it. I find that the doctor is a dyspeptic, and has nothing of the bon vivant about him—he will return to his hotel immediately after he finishes. Now, there will be a quiet little supper, which was planned in honor of the lecturer, at my house after the skeleton and Doctor Brewster have done their duty. You are a good fellow—you shall be your host's right-hand man, eh? you assent? good! I say, if I had had my wits about me this morning, I should have noticed that your first name was John, and not Launcelet, eh?"

That "quiet little supper" became a noisy one before it was over—but it was a glorious affair! And as a proof to me that my host often had a method in asking his questions, I found upon sit-ting down at the board that roast beef sat king at the head of the table, and looked smilingly down upon his court, upon the lesser meats, the succulent vegetables and piquant sauces. And there were several odd decenters of wine, and more than one half-dozen of Bass's English ale—wine for those who relished it, and ale for those who relished not the wine. In fact, it was decidedly an English "supper," and I was not among the least who did justice to it. But oh, the nightmare that fell to my lot after it! Shall I ever forget the talking skeleton that pointed a taunting finger at me, and jeeringly told me that my employers had discharged me as an unfaithful servant; and that—unkindest cut of all—the girl of my heart had jilted me and married another?

The next morning, upon making inquiries of the proper parties, I learned that the meeting of Collins's creditors had taken place as per announcement, and that an offer of seventy-fivecents-on-the-dollar made by Collins had been accepted.

My little misadventure did me no harmemployers rather enjoyed the story than other wise, and made me very happy by giving me the increased salary desired.

The girl of my heart, who had been "as true as steel 'to me for a long time, also made me very

happy soon after my promotion.

The professor accompanied me to the train the evening that I leit Boston for New York. After the ears had started, and he had bidden me good-

by, he shouted:
"I say, doctor!"

"Well, professor?"

"There is one little saying you must never for-

"What is it?"

"There is a skeleton in every house!"

Chevaliers of Industry.

"The most gentlemanly man I ever met in my life," said Lord Byron, in depreciation of appearances, "was a pickpocket." M. Houdin, too, of whom none can say, "that he is no conjuror," M. Houdin, too, of seems to award the palm for elegant demeanor and address to the fashionable cardsharper. After which two opinions, let no man boast himself of mere external advantages.

Lord Byron, however, spoke from an experience of rogues that was limited indeed, compared to that of the great professor of prestigiation. After helping to establish French supremacy in Algeria by eclipsing the miracles of the Marabouts, M. Houdin has been acting semi-officially as a detector of swindlers in France, nor can we imagine a calling more suited to his genius and antecedents; for this dexterous gentleman, who has mystyfied us so often with his wondrous tricks, and made us almost doubt whether the repeal of the laws against witchcraft was not a little premature, seems to have mixed with very queer company from his youth up. Undefiled himself, he has touched a good deal of pitch. His heart has always condemned the crime of the Cheat, but he has not, he confesses, been able to withhold his admiration from the skill with which the coup has been effected; and it it should be the carnest hope of all of us that M. Houdin may continue honest, for he could take the teeth from the jaws of every one of us if he pleased, and we should never know who did it. In a recent work, this formidable person, so fortunately a friend of society, has laid bare the ingenious machinery by which the Chevaliers of Industry make prey of the public, but very properly without directions for use. He has put people on their guard without teaching them how to attack others; and, in particular, he has set forth before the eyes of the infatuated the utter hopelessness of their winning at a gamblingtable in the long-run.

In France, in particular, if we are to believe M. Houdin, play in public—especially card-playing—is very common, and even private society is infested by very large numbers of professional

These gentry sometimes exercise their calling separately, but more commonly with the help of one or two confederates; and sometimes they unite together in large numbers, so as to form a regular club, which they entice as many people to join as possible, and then divide the gains. The members of these joint-stock companies, how-The ever, are rather suspicious of one another, and without good reason. After an evening in which the dupes are known to have lost very heavily, there are often not so many louis to divide as there ought to be, whereupon a personal search is instituted. There are ways, however, of eluding even this precaution to Greeks of genius.
They stick the money under the table with pieces
of wax, and collect it afterward; or they swallow the coins, and take an emetic when they get

Thus, an Italian acquaintance of our author's,

called Candour (upon some hicus a non lu principle), informs two other Greeks, his friends, that he has picked up a provincial minor—"a young man from the country"—and proposes that they shall pluck him in concert. He introduces than to the destination of the control of t them to the destined victim under titles borrowed from the nobility, and they all four sup together at the Maison Dorée, and afterward play bouillotte. Candour has arranged with his two friends that the provincial is to win to to the extent of three thousand francs at first, after which they are to fleece him in genuine earnest. An immens pocket-book, crammed with notes, which he careeasly suffers to lie on the table, affords them hopes of the most brilliant hue. He is intoxicated with his good fortune, and proposes higher stakes; but, unfortunately, just as he does so, his nose begins to bleed profusely, and he has to leave the room, apologizing for the unreasonable hemorrhage, to which he is constitutionally subject. M. Candour, filled with compassionate interest, rushes after him. The two Greeks, beholding the pocket-book left behind, propose that they shall imagine they have won its contents, and be off with them at once; if they meet the owner, they have only to say that they were about to return t him his property. They accordingly settle the bill, with a handsome douceur to the waiter (for the Greeks are not illiberal). At the bottom of the staircase, the one who has the pocket-book in his sion stops short.

"I say, Patoche, a thought has just struck me. Go back and tell that waiter that we intend going to the Café Riche to continue our game. This

will give us time, in case of pursuit."

No sooner has poor Patoche departed, than his companion vanishes with the pocket-book.

After all, however, the wily Greek is deceived; the pocket-book is only filled with waste paper, and the young provincial is Greek No. 4, who has played out this little game in concert with the genuous Candour.

Every Greek worthy of the title carries a second purse filled with false money or flash notes, to inspire confidence, as in the above case, during the absence of its proprietor.

To our ears, we repeat, these things sound constrous, because we are fortunately, a respectable nation. It is rarely even at Saratoga that M. Houdin would have had the chance of watching such an exhibition of skill as was afforded to him at a certain subscription-ball at the Veau qui tête (Sucking Calf) in Paris. He had been playing a little, and lost ten francs, which was all he could then afford to lose, for "at twenty-five years of says he, with a smile, "one is seldom a maire." He had therefore no spirits for millionaire," dancing, but derived some pleasure from looking on at the card-tables, and seeing others lose. , In particular he watches a game at écartê, where the stakes are large.

The player behind whom I stood was most unfortunate; he had lost four games one after another.

I began to think that I had brought my ill-luck to my neighbor. Wishing to be strictly impartial, I resolved to make him some amends, by porting it and myself to the side of his adver-

The man behind whom I now placed myself was about forty years of age. He had a frank, open countenance, and boasted a buge pair of thick "blondes mustaches." He wore a blue coat, buttoned up to the throat, which gave him a military air : this, together with his distingué appearance and easy, gentlemanlike manners, betokened a man accustomed to the best society.

He was most fortunate in his play, and after each game, invariably, whilst collecting and dealing the cards, kept alluding to his wonderful luck, as if he wished to justify himself to his oppor

"If," said he, addressing his adversary, had, unluckily, for me, played a diamond, instead of a spade, I should have been forced to take it, and you would have made the trick."

This manner of particularizing facts rather astonished me. I was at this time au fait at some of the tricks of the Greeks, and that way of discoursing on the game. It also struck me that I perceived him making certain passes, to which I was no stranger.

I stood for some time looking on with the greatest attention, thinking I might be deceived in my conjectures. The game was played with the most perfect regularity; however, I allowed no moveent of his to escape me.

the end, my minute and determined investigation met with the success it deserved; a false move which he made put me on the scent, and I now felt sure that the fortunate winner was nothing more than a Greek of the first-water.

and I now felt sure that the fortunate winner was nothing more than a Greek of the first-water.

"I confess with shame, that one in possession of the secret of these manœuvres, I took the greatest delight in seeing them executed. Under the pretext of ascertaining the truth of my suspicions, I made friends with my conscience, and indulged in a spectacle truly interesting to me. It was charming to observe my hero, with his elegant address, collecting the cards, sorting them, and selecting those which he thought would be of use to him; then classing them in the most natural manner, and at length cutting them for his own benefit, before the eyes of a whole host of spectators. In the end, my feelings became more worthy of me, and I returned to my better acif. Laying saide my admiration, I resolved to put a stop to the continued success of the elegant sharper. In consequence of this determination, I went up to one of our commissaries of police, named Brissard, who I knew was intelligent and energetic. I told him what I had seen. Brissard lollowed me—waited until the individual I pointed out to him rose from the table (a Greek is not important that the same time that he adversary holds the query in slightly projecting over the under—a heart; 2. The mouth shil—adiamond; 3. The upper in slightly projecting over the under—a club; 4. The under lip projecting beyond the upper —a spade. Thus, for instance, if the Greek is biding his more treatment to the stephic time.

Tinally, even if we entertain the ridiculous supposition that keen observation and the Greek is biding his time.

Finally, even if we entertain the ridiculous supposition that keen observation and prodence will defend an honest player against a Greek, will defend an honest player as fearthy no sagacity can do so squints two of them cheating in one certainly no sagacity can do so squints two of them cheating in one certainly no sagacity can do so squints light on sagacity can do so squints light on sagacity can do so squints light projection and will defend an

tendance. I have not the honor of knowing you.

May I ask who introduced you here?"
"Oh! certainly," replied the Greek, with great assurance, a benevolent smile playing on his fea-tures. "I was introduced by my friend M——" (at the same time mentioning a well-known name) "to one of your collesgues, who gave me a most favorable reception. However, sir, it you will come with me, we will go and find my friend, who will confirm what I have stated. Stay, I think he is on this side of the room."

Startled at the frankness of this reply, Brissard, thinking that I must have been mistaken, was on the point of apologizing, but on a sign from me, he followed the Greek, who led the way, and appeared to be searching for his friend in and appeared to be searching for his friend in every direction. The crowd was so great we had great difficulty in following him. All at once the blue coat disappeared, as if by enchantment. In vain did we look for him in the room. We direction. soon found that our man, in passing near the

door, had slipped out.

"I'll catch him yet," said Brissard, running toward the cloak-room; the fugitive must be bareward the cloak-room; address of his hatter may holp us."

"Madame," asked he, addressing the woman in charge of the hats and cloaks, "has a gentleman with large mustaches just been here to get his hat ?"

"That will do. Take great care of the last hat which is not claimed, and keep it for me."

He then went on to the concierge.
"Tell me, have you just seen any one go out ?"

"Yes, sir; a tall man with big mustaches. "That's he; and he was bareheaded?"
"Yes; but after going a few steps, he pulled

out an opera-hat from under his coat, and put it on his head."
"The rascal had made his arrangements beforehand," said Brissard. "We are done."

If this accomplished Greek had been subjected

to a microscopical personal examination, some or all of the following peculiarities would have been detected:

There would have been found-item, two compartments, termed fineties, in the back of the waistband of his trowsers, filled with false cards, which he would substitute for those on the table whenever it was necessary: item, two others in his waistcoat, termed costiéres, under the left armpit, and used for the same purpose : item, a snuff box, on the lid of which is a small medallion, enng the miniature of a lady exquisitely painted: this excites the admiration even of an adversary, who, in the pauses of the game, may take it up and show it to his friends as a harmless gewgaw; when the play begins, however, the proprietor of this jewel requires a pinch of snuff, and thereby gives himself an opportunity of drawing the box toward him; at the same time, drawing the box toward him; at the same time, he presses a spring, which withdraws the portrait, and substitutes for it a convex glass, which, when he deals, being underneath the faces of the cards he gives to his adversary, exposes to him every one of them; when all is over, the medalion returns to its place, and the Greek offers a pinch of snuff to his victims. There is still another piece of jewelry: item, a ring, termed trapan, which is hollow, and forms a reservoir filled with very liquid ink, wherewith its proprietor can mark any card he pleases with an almost imperceptible spot before the very eyes of his adversary; for dominoes, this pen, as it may be called, is made of steel, for scratching the same felonious mark.

versary; for dominoes, this pen, as it may be called, is made of steel, for scratching the same felonious mark.

Card-marking is a very ingenious process, whereby the back of any card is designated by a single spot, according to its position.

As for tinted cards, or cards with any pattern on their backs—such as we are accustomed to use in our drawing-rooms—no Frenchman that has any protensions to sagacity, it seems, would dream of playing with them; but even with white cards, one is not sate in Paris.

The most jealonally gnarded saloons, the most exclusive clubs, have been found to be no more a guarantee of fair cards than of fair play.

The Greek finds out the name and address of the tradesman who furnishes the playing-cards to the house or club which he is in the habit of frequenting; he then goes to the shop, and makes a few trifling purchases, just to pave his way. He does this more than once, and returns again and again. At length, one fine day, he calls at the shop to select, for a friend (he says), a dozen or half-a-dozen packs of cards, according as the shop is a large or a small one. The next morning, pretending that the cards are not of the color required, he takes them back again. The packets being unopened, the shopkeeper has no hesitation in receiving and changing them for others. But the Greek has passed the night in opening and re-sealing the packets by a peculiar process known to sharpers. The cards have been marked by him, before returning them to the shopkeeper, who has them now in his shop. The cheat is accomplished, and the Greek is biding his time.

Finally, even if we entertain the ridiculous exprecition that keep observation and prudence.

OUR EUROPEAN LETTER.

The Pope-Vesuvius-Italy

HAPPENING to be in the grand court of the Vatican palace last Friday week, I had the good fortune to re-ceive a blessing from the Pope, and, moreover, to shake hands with him. It was three o'clock, and remarking a hands with him. It was three o'clock, and remarking a hundred or more French soldiers crowding about a door, I learned, on inquiry, that his Holiness was expected to come down soon from his apartments and take his customary carriage-ride, and the soldiers were in hopes of receiving his blessing prior to their departure from Rome. Bo, mingling with them, in a few moments I saw the great door thrown open by the fautastically-dressed Swiss Guard, and preceded by gayly tricked-out attendants, Pope Pius IX. appeared. On seeing the soldiers he paused a minute, and then, opproaching been, uttered a few insudialte words. He is very stout—fat, one might say—of medium stature, a smooth, white face, bright teeth, and dark, hazel eyes, with a most gentle, benignant expression, indicaseyes, with a most gentle, benignant expression, indea-tive of his well-known character—that of a harmless, kind-hearted man of mediocre talent, who, though fill-ing a place of care and power, still is at peace with him. soif, and would gladly be so with all the world. A handsome old genticman, would be said of him, even, if he had not worn a very broad-brimmed red silk hat, manule of the same stuff, and long white robe under it. Walking slowly by the soldiers, all lying on their faces, he stopped near to the place where I was standing, and they crawling and so: ambling to kiss his feet. I reached out and took his hand cordially, which appeared to surprise the old gentleman somewhat, not seeming to recognize me! However, with the usual benediction upon me, he moved on to the spl-ndid naircase leading down to the Piazza St. Pietro, where his carriage was awaiting him, once turning about, and giving me an earnest scrutiny, still, it would seem, unable to recall

our former acquaintance!

The Pope rides in a fine carriage of gold and glass drawn by four black horses; and mounted men, ten of them, in gaudy uniform, escort him, after the trumpeter gives the signal. It was a grand as singular spectacle to the eyes of an humble unbeliever, but as everybody in Rome speaks well of the Pope, there can be no objection to his innocent pageant. All of his body-guard are Rome speaks well of the Pope, there can be no objection to his innocent pageant. All of his body-guard are and must be Swiss, and they wear the uniform devised by Michael Angelo. Pope Pius IX. has been the head of the Romish Church now twenty-two years, and, after the fashion of his predecessors, has added much to the decorations of Rome in the way of monuments, fountains, and now has a large force at work on the wonderful Vatican Palace, where he resides continually when in the city, not having occupied the Quirmal Palace for many years.

no is at this time in a state of siege. Pive of the twelve gates of the city are closed, and the other seven are well barricaded, aithough there is no hindrance to

are well barricaded, aithough there is no hindrance to egress and ingress of quiet, loyal people. The French soldiers leaving, their places are filled by the Roman Zouaves, volunteers from all nations, who, in addition to good clothing and plenty of food and tobacco, receive one sou per day. They fill all the public squares, engaged in drill and military exercises, and, to my eye, appeared excellent soldiers. They number about 15,000. The city is, properly enough, under martial 18,001 at no time has it been more attractive and safer for travelers, as the police are most vigilant, and the comparative paucity of strangers secures for them nonusual attentions where they are desired.

As for the state of feeling in favor of annexation to the kingdom of Italy, I believe that it amounts to the same degree of disc intent that always prevails among the lower classes in all countries, ever ready for a change, which can bring them no harm and possibly some good. The yoke of the Pope's temporal power is surely not very heavy, and the solider upper classes, quite naturally, prefer to goon as they have, rather than undertake a share of the burdens of consolidated Italy, that dream of Cavour. I could not, on inquiry discover one person who believed that the Papal dominions will suffer any change in its form of Government, except by their own tree consent; and yet all admitted that the desire of Italy for Rome so its capital is quite natural, and ere long must be gratified.

taily, as the structures attore would be supported by the structure of the people of the people of a leader, the Italians are altogether in a bad way for a herodeneral despondency prevails as to the immediate future of their new kingdom, which has gone anead very like an heir who anexpectedly comes into his estate before he had prepared for himself a course of action. The error of Italian politics, it struck ms, is in the foolish aping the costly and valu fashions of old and rich nations in the way of army and navy, and thought the structure of the stru foolish aping the costly and vain fishions of old and rich nations in the way of array and navy, and thousands of useless offices. As a necessary consequence, the poor country is taxed to the last notch, and still government has not the money to pay its way. It remains to be seen how the possession of Rome can favorably affect the finances, for each former accession of territory has but increased the debts and embarrasments. And there is good suff in these Italians for making a great power. Hardy, industrious, cheerful, and above all, temperate to a degree surpassing anything I have seen elsewhere—and "I have roamed in many lands." In Genoa, spelled Genova in Italian, I called the attention of my companions to the fact that we had, in wandering about its busy streets, seen at least fifty thousand of the inhabitants, besides many sailors and soldiers, and never one drumkard, beggar, or the alightest incivility. And speaking of temperance, I was told when in Brussels last mon h that the wite-shops of that city which laidy, by law, closed at one a. M., naving received license to keep open all the night, of their own motion now close at half-past twelvel for their parrons, knowing they can remain so long as they please, don't care to stay late. "Its the same old atory of man's irresistible inclination to do the forbidden thin."

Naples, December 9, 1867.



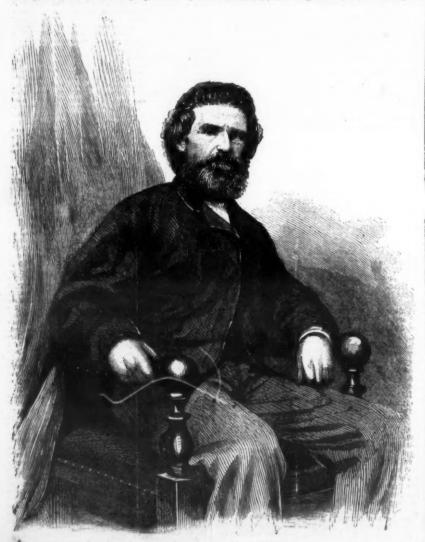
SCENE AT THE CALABOOSE, ST. LOUIS, MO., ON SUNDAY MORNING, DEC. 19-THE CLERGY OF THE CITY ADDRESSING THE WAITER GIRLS OF THE BEER SALOONS.

The Waiter Girls of St. Louis in the Calaboose.

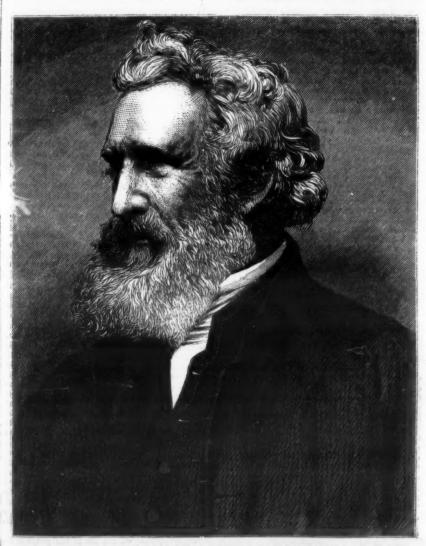
The raid on the waiter-girls of the beer salones of St. Louis by the police of that city, afforded to the student of human nature an opportunity of contemplating in a concentrated form the characteristics of that peculiar element in society represented by the

most hardened of them were mustered in the lobby and forced to listen to the exhortations of four very worthy and Christian gentlemen, who came to talk to them about their moral condition, and try to induce them to sign the temperance pledge."

Allen ones to eeck the paths of righteousne s. Never, perhaps, was there a congregation composed of such untractable material, never one that needed more to be encouraged by the words of truth and hope. Some of the girls seemed to regard the whole affair as a kind of show for their amusement, though rather a tedious one. Their features and their Shinn earnestly endeavoring to prevail upon these



THE LATE WM. B. BRADBURY, AUTHOR AND COMPOSER OF CHURCH AND SABBATH-SCHOOL MUBIC.



THE LATE RIGHT REV. BISHOP JOHN HENRY HOPKINS, OF VERMONT,—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.

**BY BRADY.—SEE PAGE 298.

INCIDENTS OF THE BURNING OF THE STEAMSHIP RALEIGH,-SEE PAGE 298.



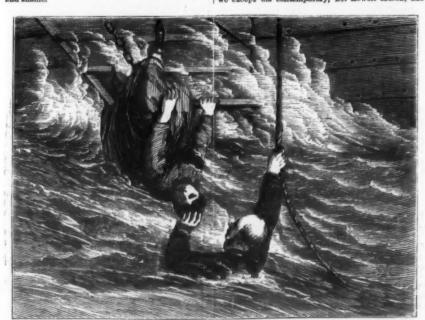
SCENE ON THE GANGWAY LADDER-THE PASSENGERS, CLINGING TO THE LADDER, WERE WAITING TO BE TAKEN INTO THE BOATS, WHEN SUDDENLY THE FASTENINGS GAVE WAY AND ALL WERE PRECIPITATED INTO THE SEA.

figious sestiment. Others, however, appear to be impressed with some degree of solemnity; and it is not impossible that the good seed scattered by the reverend father and his co-laborers may have fallen on soil not wholly sterile, and may serve to reclaim some of the sixty maidens, frail and fair, from their career of vice and shame.

THERE are probably few names more generally and favorably known in the United States than that of the entinent teacher and composer of sacred music —William B. Bradbury, Esq. No single person, unless we except his contemporary, Dr. Lowell Mason, has

or church music that would be pervaded by a pure devotional spirit, and acceptable to all religious denominations.

Mr. Bradbury was born in York, Maine, in the year 1816. He inherited his intense passion for music from his parents, both of whom were noted for their excel-



MRS. M'MANNUS, ENTANGLED IN THE GANGWAY LADDER, IS SAVED FROM DROWNING BY HER HUSBAND. THE PASSENGERS IN THE BOAT DISCOVER THE BODY OF MRS. RETART FLOATING WEAR TH



and church organs. He at once entered upon the study of music as a profession, and pursued it with assiduity, becoming in the course of three years a successful teacher of singing, and an accomplished organist.

In 1840 he removed to New York, and commenced those labors which have made his name a household one in the fullest acceptation of the term. He instituted free singing-schools for children, and began subtleshing material restrictions and the parameters adversed assigning to the publishing musical works adapted principally to the

In 1847 Mr. Bradbury went to Leipsic, where he availed himself of every opportunity for improvement in the various branches of his art, under the best mas-

He returned in 1849, and devoted his entire attention to teaching and to composing and publishing church music books, glee books, and other musical works, to the number of some thirty volumes. In 1854 he commenced manufacturing pianos, and

In 1894 he commenced manufacturing planos, and continued ie exercise a general supervision over the business, until about two years ago, when, his health declining, he was obliged to transfer the affairs of his establishment to his late superintendent, F. G. Smith, who still carries on the business.

Mr. Bradbury died at his residence at Montclair, N. J., on Tucsday, 7th inst., at the age of fifty-two, and was buried on the Saturday following.

RICHT REVEREND BISHOP HOPKINS.

THE Right Reverend John H. Hopkins, Prostant Episcopal Bishop of Vermont, died at his resi-moe, at Rock Point, Vermont, on the afternoon of the h inst., aged seventy-six years. Bishop Hopkins was born in Dublin, January 30, 1792,

and came to this country with his parents eight years after. His early education was conducted by his mother, who soon discovered in her son those elements which, developed by his subsequent classical culture, raised him to an eminent position in the church and society. His parents desired he should pursue the practice of law, but this did not suit his inclinations, and when nineteen years of age he commenced the manufacture of iron in Western Pennsylvania. business being prostrated by the peace of 1815, he listened to the suggestions of his parents, and entered upon the study of law. He was admitted to practice in Pittsburg, after a short course of study, and in five years was considered the most prominent lawyer of the Pittsburg bar, and was in receipt of the largest fees paid at that time in Pennsylvania. Notwithstanding these facts, he left his high position, with all its bright promises for the future, to study fer the ministry, being ordained a priest in the Protestant Episcopal Church in 1824, becoming rector of Trinity Church, Pittsburg, over a congregation that he had collected himself while a layman, and minister, ing to them for a period of seven years, when his duty led him to Boston, Massachusetts. His labors were eminently successful in his new station, and he gradu. ally draw about him a circle of literary and ecclesiastical gentlemen, who sacured for him a professorship in the Theological Seminary of Massachusetts during the first year of his residence in that State. In 1832 he was sleeted first Bishop of Vermont, a position he occupied elected first Blahop of Vermont, a position he occupied until his death. The latter portion of his life was spent in diocesan labors, in establishing the Vermont Episcopal Institute, and in preparing a series of theological and controversial works. Prominent among these are "A Befutation of Milner's End of Controversy, in a Series of Letters," two volumes, published in 1854; "Christianity Vindicated;" "History of the Confessional;" and "The American Citizen: His Rights and Duties." In the early part of the rebellion he published work in defence of Sharary which was most problems. Duties." In the early part of the rebellion he published a work in defense of Slayery, which was much spoken of at the time, because of the source from which it emanated. One of his latest works was a "Church History in Verse," published last year.

History in Verse," published last year.

Bishop Hopkins was a de'egate to the late Pan-Anglican Convention in England, at which he preached a sermon, subsequently extensively published both in this country and in England, and was one of the most accomplished of men. He was a poet, painter, composer of music, author of numerous works, legal, political, theological and architectural, an eloquent orator, skillful musician on several instruments, a successful architect, lawyer, and was one of the most pure and blameless of men in his private walks.

Incidents of the Burning of the Raleigh, on the 24th of December last.

Tur Raleigh, a side-wheel vessel of 858 tone burden, was built at Greenpoint, L. L., in 1865, and left New York on the afternoon of the 21st of December New York on the atternoon of the list of December last, destined for the port of New Orleans. The vessel had on board a light cargo of merohandize, and fifty-five persons, of whom twenty were passengers, who had quarters in the steerage assigned to them.

At about noon on Tuesday, the 24th ult., an alarm of

fire was raised by Mrs. McMannus, wife of the purser. She had been conversing with an aged widow isdy, in the after part of the lower cabin, when, upon the latter manifesting a desire to lie down, she turned and walked toward her husband's room. As she drew near she discovered smoke rising from the vicinity of the boiler, and, on watching it a few moments, became convinced that the ship was on fire. Rushing into the purser's room, she imparted the intelligence to her husband, room, she imparted the intelligence to her husband, who was in the act of shaving. The smoke soon poured forth from every chink and crevice forward of the boiler, and rapidly wrought its way to the furthest extremity of the vessel. The flames forced the engineers from the engine-room, while the dense volume of smoke formed an impenetrable barrier to the dummy fire-engines. Captain Marshman immediately put the slip in a position to the wind, to lessen the progress of the fire, and promptly issued his orders for the manning of the life-boats.

There was but little excitement manifested until the first boat was lowered, when, as might well be expected. there was a fearful rush made to secure seats. Many of the passengers jumped overboard and clutched with death grips such floating material as lay conve-nient, though the Raleigh was supplied with six lifeboats and a quantity of life-preservers sufficient supply every person on board. While the boats w rvers sufficient to supply every person on board. While the boats were being lowered, the passengers were grouped upon the deck of the vessel in all the different forms and expressions of fear, excitement and resignation; many of them clinging to the gangway-ladder hanging over the side of the steamer. An old lady, Mrs. Bryant, one of the passengers, was seated on the lower step, grasping the arm of Captain Mills, of the Metropolitan Police force, of this city, who was standing on the step above. Buddenly the fastenings gave way, and the ladder and all those clinging to it were precipitated into the water. Mrs. Bryant and several other passengers were drowned by this sed catastrophe. The sea, which had previously been remarkably calm, now became quite disturbed, and it was with great offficulty that the passengers could get into the first boat that was lowered. supply every

This had hardly been accomplished when a heavy sea struck the frail shell, capsized it, and out of the ten who had crowded in but three escaped drowning. The purser's wife, Mrs. Ellen McMannus, was the

ast person known to have left the burning vessel, and her narrative of the affair will be found quite thrilling

When she informed her husband of the fire, he turned to her and said: "Nellie, you know I am an officer of this ship, and I cannot leave the vessel without the captain's orders," and then directed her to a said of the turner of turner of the turner of turner of the turner of turn was me captain's orders," and then directed her to a seat on the upper deck, where she agreed to remain until he should return to rescue her. She remained in this position for more than an hour—a painful observer of a series of the most distressing scenes. As the vessel was sailing with the wind, the fixmes appeared to be confined to the vicinity of the boiler for the most part; yet they were steadily advancing in their destructive sway toward the after quarters. Bafts were heattly constructed from chairs, lounges, planks, and hastily constructed from chairs; lounges, planks, and whatever available materials were noticed in the confusion. Many of the passengers, being unaccustomed to the use of life-preservers, adjusted them to their persons in such a manner that when they sprang into the water, their heads, instead of their feet, were kept beneath the surface. At length, and after all the passengers had either jumped or been taken from the engers had either jumped or been taken from the ship, the purser returned and found his wife in the po-sition he had assigned her. Divesting himself of his boots, he saked her if she was willing to jump, and re-ceiving an affirmative answer, gave her directions when to spring, and then jumped into the water himself. She descended the steps abaft the wheel-house to the middle platform, and as soon as her husband gave the signal, she covered her face with her hands and leaped from the burning vessel. As she rose from the water she found that we are the law water waterly did not be the same that the s from the burning vessel. As she rose from the water she found that one of her legs had become entangled in a chain fastened to the lower step, and used in drawing the steps to the deck, by which she was thrown upon her back, and held firmly in her perilous position. Her husband secured the end of a rope likewise attached to the steps, and, swimming toward his wife, endeavored to keep her head above water with his hand until some assistance could be rendered. Captain Marshman, who hed maintained his notificing upon the Marshman, who had maintained his position upon the wheel-house, in spite of the entreaties of his friends to avail himself of the opportunities of escape, seized a loose plank, and throwing it into the water, shouled to the purser to save himself and wife by it. During the time her husband was trying to liberate her, Mrs. Mc-Mannus sank several times, and on rising found that her leg had become disengaged, but that the skirt of her dress had got twisted about the chain, so that she was still confined to the vessel, and in imminent peril of being dashed violently sgainst the ship's sides. After she was freed from this accident, she was dragged by her husband a distance of over twelve yards, when she noticed one of the little boats about half full of men. On drawing nearer, one of the men threw a rope to ward her, but she could not secure it; another held out one of the cars, which she succeeded in grasping and retaining until drawn from the water. Mr. McMan also, was rescued, and after being in the boat a few mo-ments the party took a farewell look at the iil-fated vessel, and saw the heroic captain still standing upon the wheel-house, and waving his handkerchief after them in spite of the stifling smoke and hissing flames by which he was surrounded.

When the boat with Mrs. McMannus on board was a when the local with Mrs. Remaining on board was a few miles away from the burning ship, the horrors of the situation was enhanced by the apparition of the dead body of Mrs. Bryant floating on the surface of the water close by, and tossed like a ghasily plaything of the waves. The party in the boat drifted about for over highest bours a representation, which distance from the waves. The party in the boat drifted about for over ninete-n hours, experiencing much distress from the keenness of the atmosphere and the want of nour ishment. At an early hour of the following mornin they hove in sight of the Charleston lightship, an mey nove in sight of the Charleston lightship, and continuing their course, they were picked up about nine o'clock and conveyed to the city, where every possible attention was shown them. Two other boats were picked up at nearly the same time, but in different localities.

"My Murderer's Name Is-

OR, THE WIFE'S REVENGE, CHAPTER X.

Ow the last week in October, the Marquis of - wrote to his *protègè*, Vibert, as follows:

MY DEAR BOY :- The information which you gave me in your last letter really excites my curi-osity. I was dreadfully bored, and you have actually ally succeeded in interesting me. It is really very good of you; keep it up, and I shall likely make my will in your favor, and disinherit my scamp of a nephew, who actually dares to make a parade of his liberal ideas before me. He has even ventured to tell me to my face that I am behind the age! By heavens, the remark may cost him two or three millions! Behind the age indeed! But enough of my personal affairs.

Tell me at once about the beautiful widow. Has she entered into your plans? Your letter stopped just at the most interesting point; one would think you were writing a sensational serial, another of the abominations of modern times! Come, hasten to keep me advised of all that transpires. At my age, alas! one has little to enjoy in one's own life, so help me to enjoy the life of others. You will find it worth your while, I can tell you, my boy, for the men of my era never forget services rendered; ingratitude is a modern invention.

P. S. The present Government are managing their finances badly enough; they have no money in their treasury. The mission in which you are engaged will require means with which they will never furnish you, notwithstanding their promises. Draw on me, therefore, without stint; I don't care to economize for my scamp of a nephew. Behind the age am I? The idiot! he shall pay for this!

Vibert hastened to make answer:

MT DEAR MARQUIS:-Day before yesterday I called at ten o'clock on Madame Vibert, who joined me in the parlor immediately.

"I have reflected, sir, on your proposition," she said, "and since there seems no other mode of arriving at the truth, I shall follow your direc-

Of course I seated myself and gave her all the necessary details and instructions, and a couple of hours afterward I left her to prepare our plan

of attack.
I mentioped to you before, Madame Pelagie

d'Ermont, at whose house Savari was a frequent | Madame d'Ermont. I think I played my part so visitor, and it was there that I determined he should first meet Madame Vidal. With reference to this, therefore, at two in the afternoon I called at No. 10 Rue Blanche and inquired for Madame d'Ermont.

Had you met me on the staircase, marquis, yo would not, in spite of all your acuteness, have re-cognized me. I was gotten up as a fashionable foreigner. Fancy me in a rounded coat, black cravat and waistcoat, gray pantaloons, lavender gloves, crape on my hat, patent leather boots, a long chain visible beneath my waistcoat, a diamond pin in my cravat, and a dimond ring upon the hand which was left ungloved, and which carried a gold-headed cane enriched with turquoises

The dress, in a word, marquis, of a rich man and a foreigner. It is needless to tell you that my diamonds and turquoises were admirable imita-

"Can I see Madame d'Ermont?" I inquired at "I do not know, sir; will you send in your name?" said the sharp-looking servant.

At first I appeared not to understand, as if I was not familiar with the language in which she spoke, and then I replied, with an Italian accent borrowed from Madame Vidal:

"My name is not known to your mistress, but I was requested to call by one of her friends. I am just come from Naples, and if you will hand her my card

So saying, I drew forth a card with a crest, which I had had engraved the day before, and which the servant bore to her mistress, after in-

troducing me into an elegant reception-room.

I was right in my calculations, for Madame d'Ermont speedly made her appearance in a blue silk wrapper. She was plump and fair, and had been pretty in her youth, which was now fast de-

parting.
"Sir," she said, glancing at the card in her hand, "I am delighted to make your acquaint-Pray, be seated. You were requested to

"Many of your friends, madame, but particu-larly by the Marquis Santa Vicchini."

"Ah! the dear marquis, I have not seen him these five or six years; is he quite well?" "Quite well, madame."

"You are just from Naples, count?" "Yes, madame; and my first thought was to make you a visit. I have heard so much about

you. "Ah, you are a flatterer. If you begin by flat-tery, we shall quarrel at once," she said, with a

coquettish air.

"Ah, madame, I sincerely hope not, for I am here in Paris without a single friend, and hardly an acquaintance."

"Poor young man! Consider my house as your own. But, why then are you here-for business or amusement?"

"I have come to amuse myself, I have had great sorrows lately, having lost several near re-lations. You perceive I am still wearing mourn-

ing."
"Shall you remain long with us?" she inquired

in a tone of interest.
"Possibly—if I find Paris agreeable. "Ah! to enjoy Paris, one must needs be rich?"
"To me money is of no consequence, provided amuse myself."

This reply, made in a tone of perfect innocence induced Madame d'Ermont to regard me with increased favor.

"What are your tastes?" she inquired. "I must endeavor to study them, since you have been recommended to my good offices by so many

"Well, madame, I enjoy all that is good and

beautiful—ladies' society in particular."
"That is but natural," responded Madame d'Ermont, lowering her eyes in a manner intended to be effective; "you must be such a favorite with

the sex."

Marquis, this was the first compliment ever paid me, an 1 it did credit to my complete disguise! Will you believe me, I was absurd enough the provide laugh at me; when one can to blush at it! Don't laugh at me; when one can never have the substance, even the shadow is a delight.

I pressed madame's hand by way of reply, and she in return invited me to her house to "tea" that evening.

"Alas! madame, unfortunately my time is not my own in the evenings. I am not alone in

"Are you married?" she inquired, in a voice which she endeavored to render tremulous "No, thank heaven," I replied, looking ten-

derly at her. "Then what prevents your accepting my invi-

tation?" "I brought from Naples a relative, who know

no one in Paris, and whom I am unwilling to leave in a hotel. But," said I, suddenly changing my tone, "you have been so kind to me, that perhaps you will allow me to bring my fair co with me?"

Madame d'Ermont was evidently astonished at my proposition, but she doubtless came to the conclusion, as I was a stranger in Paris, that her antecedents were unknown to me, so she re-covered speedily her self-possession, and re-

"Bring your cousin by all means, count! I shall be delighted to know her. But tell her I am only receiving informally this evening; that there will be no music or dancing, only talking, and per-haps a game at cards. By-the-way, do you enjoy

"Yes; I must admit that I am very fond of play."
"Ah, I do not allow what you call 'play' here;

it annoys me beyond measure to have any one lose more than a few louis in my house." I bowed assent, rose, kissed her hand as grace-fully as I knew how, and took my leave.

Thus ended, marquis, my first interview with

well that I deserve your congratulations, to which I am by no means insensible. To-night, then, they will meet, Savari and Madame Vidal. If she should betray herself! I tremble at the thought!

CHAPTER XL.

BETWEEN eleven and twelve o'clock, the drawing-room of Madame d'Ermont was filled with guests. Savari was among the latest, and the ladies received him with the utmost enthusiasm, while the men met him more coldly. When Julia Vidal and Vibert arrived, the tables were covered with cards, and play had already begun. This was what Vibert had counted upon, and was also his motive for going late, as he was not yet quite confident that Julia had strength equal to the task before her. He wished her, therefore, to attract as little attention as possible. Besides, he feared that she might manifest repugnance and disgust toward the people with whom she found herself.

But Julia had never been in company with her husband, and while she had all the graces of an elegant and cultivated woman, she was still ignorant of many of the usages of good society. She might entertain instinctive dislikes for people, but many omissions or social solecisms which would at once have impressed a Parisian escaped the notice of Julia, who knew few persons outside of the family circle, and who had been reared in a second-rate Italian town. Besides, vengeance was her absorbing passion. What to her was pride, a damaged reputation, or personal disgust? All these were as nothing weighed against the command of her dying husband. When she felt her heart or strength failing her, it was not a bottle of smelling salts which sh needed to reanimate her, but the pocket-book of Maurice Vidal, on which were traced in the blood of the only man she had ever loved, the words,

"Julia, avenge me!"
Grave and watchful, Madame Vidal was seated in a corner of the room, observing Albert Savari, who was standing looking over the players.

He appeared scarcely the same man whom she had studied through the interstices of the screen at the office of M. Goubert. Obliged to defend his liberty, and perhaps his life, he had then worn a mask. His safety depended on controlling a gesture, a look, a sudden blush. But here, at Madame d'Ermont's, he was not obliged to act a part; every one was so much absorbed in cards that he was not even observed. The deep sadness imprinted on his face was what most impressed Julia.

Although he appeared interested in the game, Savari took no active part in it. He held a num-ber of louis, and several times, when apparently about to stake them, he had drawn back, and his face spoke as loudly as words—"Why risk them? What matter to me if I win or lose?"

Suddenly there was a touch upon his arm, and Vibert, who had been watching him as attentively as Julia, said with an Italian accent :

"Pardon me, sir, but every one is playing here but yourself. Will you do me a service?"

"What service, sir?" coldly inquired Savari, after inspecting his interlocutor. "I am a stranger, an Italian, as you have doubtless divined from my pronounciation, and not at all acquainted with the game which is absorbing

the interest of every one to-night. I would like to take a hand in it, for to tell you the truth, I am very fond of play. Will you then have the kind-ness to devote a moment to instruct me in the principles of this famous game of baccara of which we hear so much in Italy?" "I see no objection to doing so," said Savari

"Thanks, sir. I might then seat myself heside one of those ladies and risk a few bank notes "Oh, as to that, sir," said Savari, with a grim smile, "permit me to tell you that one is never ridiculous in their eyes when risking bank notes,"

and picking up a pack of cards, Savari motioned Vibert that he would commence his lesson, "Had we not better take a seat at this stiletable," said Vibert; "I have a lady, a countrywo-man, with me, who would also like to profit by

your kindness, if you do not object."
"Where is the lady?" "Sitting in yonder corner. She knows no one, speaks but little of your language, and is, besides, very timid."

For the first time the eyes of Julia and Savari met: but Maurice Vidal's widow sustained the glance without manifesting the slightest emotion, and Vibert hastened to make the necessary intro-

"We are perfect strangers among you, the police agent, "and but for the amiability of Madame d'Ermont in inviting us here, would carcely have known what to do with ourselves this evening. But pardon my loquacity, sir, you have probably something better to do than to listen to my egotistical chatter." Then, turning to Julia, he said, "This gentleman is kind enough to undertake to teach us something about bacra, the game which was so much talked of, as you may remember, in Naples, last winter. Enorous sums are won and lost at it, and we must try our luck.

Savari seated himself on the sofa beside Julia and opposite Vibert, and commenced making the promised explanation. Hardly had he finished doing so, when Vibert sprang from his seat, saying: "I must try my luck; thanks to you, I feel

that I understand the game."

"Hardly sufficiently, I should say, to have a chance against the person who now holds the

"Well, I shall try," said Vibert, leaving Julia

and Savari alone.

He approached the table, where a place was made for him, for he drew forth a well-filled wallet, which had been made up judiciously for the purpose of display, legitimate bank notes, the fruits of his economies, covering the spurious ones. He played for small stakes at first, however, and simply to avoid creating suspicion, although baccara was as familiar to him as to his instructor. Presently he put down larger sums,

and the gold began to heap itself up before him.
"If the marquis could but look upon me now," he thought, "how he would enjoy the sight. An agent of police playing baccara with people whom he is detailed to watch, and winning their money at the same time. It is a capital joke."

While the louis were still flowing in upon him,

for he was in the luck peculiar to those who seat themselves at the gaming-table without the desire or thought of winning, some one leaned over the back of his chair, and turning, he perceived Savari, who said :

"You have been profiting by my lesson, I perceive; you must have won five or six thousand

"Yes, I believe I have won a trifle," said Vibert, in the careless tone of a millionaire.

"Since you regard your winnings as a trifle, you will not feel annoyed at your lady friend's requesting me to express her wish to return home. Vibert got up from the table on the instant.

There arose, however, one general exclamation:
"What, are you about to leave? We have but just begun; it is only three o'clock."
"The count does not wish to lose his win-

nings," suggested Antonia.

"Come, my dear count, you must allow us our revenge," said Madame d'Ermont.

Vibert felt that his departure would be taken amiss, and he also felt that these people had not yet fully served his purpose, so he said:

"Ladies, I must escort the person whom I brought here to her home, but I will return to the said that you immediately after doing so; I therefore leave my money on the table to retain my place." Of course, after this, there was no opposition to his departure, and Vibert joined Julia, and they left

the room together. "Well?" he inquired, as they descended the

"I have met him, as you foresaw, but shall we ever be thrown together again? I should never like to return to this house."

You shall never do so."

"What have you decided to do?"

"I will tell you when my plan is matured; trust to me. May I ask if your opinion concerning Savari's guilt has been shaken since your conver-

sation together?"
"My conviction is not shaken, but nothing has occurred to strengthen it."
Conversing thus they reached the street.

"I shall be obliged to return to Madame d'Ermont's to-night."

"Call a carriage then, and give the driver my address

"But do you not fear to return home alone at this late hour? I have time to accompany you."
"There is no necessity for that. If I am to accomplish the work before me, I must look all the difficulties of my position in the face."

An empty vehicle was soon found, into which Vibert handed Julia, promising to see her the day

following.
Vibert followed the carriage with his eyes for a moment, and a strange expression rested on his face. Then pressing his hand to his brow, as if to chase away some unbidden thought, he turned and quickly entered the house which he had just left.

"The first stop is taken," said he to himself, as he ascended the staircase; "now for the second. This very night I must find some means of becoming intimate with Savari without awakening his suspicions, or he will escape us for-

It was past three in the morning when Vibert Madame d'Ermont's drawing-room. re-entered During his absence, Savari had taken a place at the table, and had already won several thousand

Vibert resumed his seat and waited.

The cards were in Savari's hands, and Vibert began to play against him. He remembered the generous offer of the Marquis of X——, and resolved, in case of adverse fortune, to draw upon the resources which he had placed at his command. The proverbs that the small purses always empty themselves into the large, that streams always flow to the river, were verified again in this case. Vibert played for heavy stakes, and Savari, flushed with success, accepted them, until not only his winnings and capital were exhausted, but he was already largely in Vibert's debt. Yet he played on, in a state of feverish excitoment, superinduced by the manner of the police agent, whose exaggerated politeness and apparent indif-ference as to winning operated singularly upon his adversary's highly strung nervous temperament. He was seized with a perfect intoxication -a madness which goaded him on to win from this stranger who gathered up his money in such a nonchalant manner. At eight in the morning, however, Vibert professed him so fatigued that he was unable to play longer; he, however, offered to make one more deal to give his opponents an opportunity of recovering some of their losses; he took good care, however, to put away all his ready money and Savari's obligations, but played in such a spirit of princely generosity that at the end of the deal the ladies had recovered their rings and jewels which they had staked, and the gentlemen had won back their obligations. Savari, however, left off fourteen thous-and francs in Vibert's debt.

They all arose from the table weary enough and looked ghastly in the combination of candle and sunlight. Carriages were sent for, and every one prepared for departure. Before leaving, Savari inquired of Vibert:

Where will I find you, sir, to liquidate my indebtedness?"

"I am stopping for the present in the Rue Riche-lieu, at the Hotel des Princes," replied Vibert, who, of course, was prepared for the question. They bowed and separated.

VIBERT took a long walk. His lungs required air, his limbs were stiff and cramped, his head was weary, and yet he had not the least desire for sleep. He was elated with success; he felt that an important step was gained, for in getting Savari into his debt he was also in his power. Then, again, the money which he had won came most opportunely, for it would enable him to lead the same kind of life as Savari, to follow him in his tastes and pleasures, to dine with him at the Café Anglais, and to drive in a fine carriage whenever it was necessary. In a word, it would enable him to surround himself with an air of luxury which would deceive every one as to his personality, for it was not reasonable to suppose that a police agent would have the ability lessly to disburse money. He experienced satisfaction, also, at being able to dispense with pecuniary assistance from the Marquis of Xand the Minister of Police. As he reflected upon all this every symptom of fatigue departed, and Vibert hailed a carriage and drove to his own humble lodgings. Ascending to the fifth story, he made his toilet, wrote a letter to the Marquis

| X -----, and then drove to Julia's house.

He informed her of all that had occurred at Madame d'Ermont's, and then communicated to her his plans for the future, of which she approved.

continue your acquaintance with Savari, it will be impossible for you to reside longer in this house. He would of course discover your this house. He would of couldentity, and all would be lost."

"Most certainly." "Then you are willing to change your resi-

"No; I shall retain this apartment. It recalls

to my mind too many happy days for me to relin-quish it. But I can hire an additional suite of

rooms to occupy for the present."
"I will find one for you, if you will decide where
you prefer to reside."

Chanks. Select one for me wherever you think best; you have only to choose it and to send me the address."

'You will receive it this evening."

After leaving Julia, Vibert, who was cautious even in trifles, went to a second-hand shop and purchased two trunks, on which the marks of different countries were visible. These he filled with an infinitude of half-worn clothes, toilet articles, etc., suitable to a man of high position, feeling confident that the trunks would inspire confidence in the minds of the hotel-keeper and guests.

He next went to the Hotel des Princes, which was, in 1847, over the present Passage des Princes, and enjoyed at that time a fine reputation. It was the fashionable, the great hotel of Paris. A suite of rooms on the second floor were offered to Vibert, and Count Rubini engaged it regardless of expense. Since the morning he had become so prodigal of money that he scarcely recognized himself. His first care, then, when left alone in his new quarters, was to look at himself in the glass to see if it was really he, Vibert, who rode in carriages and who occupied apartments at the Hotel des Princes. The glass indeed reflected his face, but he found it better-looking than usual. Living like a nobleman evidently agreed with him.

After having arranged the contents of his trunks to the best possible effect, he left orders magnifi-cently at the office for a barber, bootmaker and hatter to be sent to him in the morning, and then he went in search of rooms for Julia Vidal.

Of course it would have been better for their purposes for her also to have resided at the Hotel des Princes, and had he selected rooms for her adjoining his own, she would probably have accepted them without objection or comment, Julia had but one thought—revenge!

Vibert was not a man in her eyes, but simply a means of obtaining revenge. And all means which tended to this object were good in the sight of this outraged wife, this Italian, who was under the dominion of the strongest human passion

But Vibert manifested the utmost delicacy in regard to this woman who esteemed him only as an instrument, a machine. He made every effort to compass his purpose, and yet at the same time to spare her womanly dignity.

He found great difficulty, therefore, in select ing her rooms. These were too near the Hotel des Princes, others were too far distant. were too high up for her to reach them without fatigue. Here there was not an agreeable look-out, and there the chimney smoked. Others again were too costly, for Julia, he reflected, had not won money at cards, neither was she subsidized by the police; but she had to live upon her own re-sources, and Vibert, so prodigal with his own neans, was quite a niggard of hers.

Finally he found a suite of handsomely furnished rooms with everything complete for housekeeping, on the Rue de Grammont, which he detive-the Countess Rubini.

What particularly impressed Vibert with this nt, was the fact that it had two entrances by different staircases. Thus, the parlor, besides communicating with the dining-room and principal entrance, opened by a tiny glass door on little back hall, which was reached by a servants' parrow staircase.

Vibert, with the foresight peculiar to him, managed before Julia was installed in her new home secure the key of the private stairway, and to make a sufficient opening in the glass door to be able to see and hear whatever took place in the parlor. "One can never tell what may happen," said he to himself, "and it is always best to take precautions, and be on the safe side.'

For thirty-six hours Vibert had taken no rest. He went home and to bed early. Yet he did not alcop as soundly as he was in the habit of doing. The bed in his own little room on the fifth floor was

hard enough, but he rested better upon it than on the downy couch prepared for him at the Hotel des Princ

CHAPTER XIII.

THE next morning Vibert breakfasted late, and awaited a visit from Savari. Gaming obligations are usually paid within twenty-four hours, so it was but natural that he should expect his debtor. The police agent had but one fear: that Savari would succeed in raising the fourteen thousand francs, and would bring them to him. This fear disturbed him sadly, for the success of his plan depended greatly upon Savari's inability to cancel his indebtedness. He did not for a moment imagine that the latter would shirk the obligation, for he felt that particularly since his arrest Sa-

for he left that particularly since his arrest Savari would not put himself in a false position and cause scandal and discussion. No, Vibert knew that he would either pay his debt, or else request time to enable himself to do so.

Yet at one o'clock he had not come, and the man who waited for him began to chafe at solitude and inaction. "Suppose he should avoid an interview, and write to me instead," thought Vibert, but then he comforted himself with the reflection that he would wish to see Julia again. flection that he would wish to see Julia again, "blase as he is even, she cannot but have pro-

duced an impression upon him."

At three o'clock his fears and uncertainty were relieved, a visitor was announced for the Count de Rubini, and Albert Savari entered the drawing-

His host hastened to receive him

"Ah, is it you, dear sir?" he said, assuming an Italian accent. "I am charmed to see you. Have you been quite well since yesterday? will venture to say, that like myself, you have passed most of your time in bed. I only rose

about an hour ago."
"I have slept less than yourself," said Savari, as soon as he was able to get in a word. "I have had too much upon my mind."

"Something upon your mind, eh? Ah, I dare say you are in love with one of those charming ladies whom we met at Madame d'Ermont's. Ah. these Parisians! Our Italians are nothing com. pared with them."

"Sir-" interrupted Savari.

"No, no, you would say something flattering of my countrywomen. But you cannot change my opinion respecting them. I insist that Parisians are a thousand times more attractive. Why, there is my cousin to whom I presented you "Your cousin?" said Savari, in the tone of sur-

prise which Vibert had anticipated.

"Yes; have you forgottenher?" "Assuredly not, but I did not suppose her related to you. " Why ?"

"Because I met her in Madame d'Ermont's not.

"Is there anything astonishing in that?" inquired Vibert in the most innocent tone in the world. "One of my Neapolitan friends told me to call upon that lady as soon as I arrived in Paris, that I would find her agreeable, and her house a most delightful place in which to pass my evenings."
"Ladies never visit Madame d'Ermont now,"

said Savari, curtly.

"I have much to learn then in your great Paris. After this I shall be in constant fear lest I commit such another blunder with my poor cousin; for such I assure you, sir, is the relationship existing between us. Poor girl, to think that I should have done anything to compromise her. I, who persuaded her to accompany me to divert her mind from sorrow; for she has grieved bitterly for her husband, whom she lost about six months since."

Savari was beginning to weary of the conversation, and desired to touch upon the subject which

interested him, so he began:
"I called here, Count, to—

"Yes, I know, to settle our little account. Don't let us speak of such a trifle; let me rather think that you came to see me in a friendly spirit, and drop the other subject."

"But-" said Savari, who was doubly ill at ease with his creditor, now that he made light of the

"But what?" negligently inquired Vibert.
"Through certain losses which I have sustained, I feel myself compelled to solicit your indulgence

for a few days. "Don't mention the matter, my dear follow. Every one is liable to be embarrassed at one time or another. Just take your own time about the affair. And now that we have settled that, I am about to ask you to do me a great favor.

"A favor?" "Yes; you have seen for yourself what a blunder I have already made through ignorance of Parisian manners and customs. I need just such a friend as you to aid me with his counsel. Will you be my friend?"

"I am quite at your service," said Savari, cordially, who foresaw many

arise from the connection. "Thank you very much for your kindness," said Vibert, but have a care not to promise too rashly. "I am not alone. I have a person with me, sad and suffering, whom it is my duty to amuse. We men should always get along well enough together; I should share your tastes, accommodate myself to your habits, and make your pleasures my own. But when you promise to be my friend, my cousin requires to be included in the arrangement-in fact, she needs your kind offices more

even than myself, and this may bore you?"
"I can scarcely think so, for, from the short interview which I enjoyed with your cousin, she im-

pressed me as a most amiable person. "Yes, she is a charming woman. Before her widowhood she was considered exceedingly brilliant and witty. And now, since you have been so good as to promise us both your friendship, advise me how we can best amuse ourselves, fer

we contemplate passing the winter in Paris. Where must we go? What do? And when shall I have the pleasure of introducing you to my cousin at her own house, and in a more proper manner than when I did so on a former occa-

"Whenever it suits you to do it."

"To-morrow then, let it be?
"To-morrow I will wait upon you."

Half an hour afterward they separated. Vibert was delighted with the day's work, and Savari was carcely less pleased.

Ir is said that Gustave Dore has just sold the nense picture which occupied so large a space the central salon of the French Annual Exhibition of 1867 to an American amateur for \$11,000. bition of 1867 to an American amateur for \$11,000. The subject, it will be remembered, is a gambling table at Baden. Several of the celebrated anonymae of the day sat for their portraits in this picture, which is a life-like photograph of the seene daily enacted at a German kursād. An Englishman in the foreground, attired in a knickerbocker suit of tweed, seated across a chair, evidently more absorbed by the slight figure of one of the queens of the demi-monde than by the rouge et moir going on at the table, is one of the best draws figures in the picture. Its merit was incontestable, but there was a universal expression of regret that an artist who had soared so high for the choice of his subjects should have stooped so low as to attract the attention of the petit greeze of the Jockey Club or the applause of the Quartier Breda.

AMONG THE GUATUSOS:

A Narrative of Adventure and Discovery in Central America.

THERE are a few aboriginal or Indian tribes or families, scattered at intervals over the continent, who, from their inaccessible position and other circumstances, have succeeded in maintaining an entire cumetances, have succeeded in maintaining an entire isolation trom the rest of the world, and whose characters and habits are unknown, although probably little altered from what they were at the time of the discovery. An interesting example is afforded by the Guatusos, an Indian tribe occupying the basin of the Rio Frio, a considerable stream rising in the mountains of Costa Rice, and running northward into Lake Nicarsons, which it reaches at very nearly the point of Nicaragua, which it reaches at very nearly the point of debouchure of the Rio San Juan. Many attempts were debouchure of the Rio San Juan. Many attempts were made by the Spanish missionaries and others toward the close of the last century to peneirate into this region, but they all failed through the firm and unappeasable hostility of the Indians. An attempt was made by the Costa Ricans, during the war against Wilker, in 1856, to send a body of trops down the Bio Frio, to surprise the Fort of San Carlos, near its nouth, but they were met by the Guatusos and driven

As might be expected the most extravagant stories prevail in Central America concerning these unknown and bellicose Indians. They are reported to be nearly white, with red hair, and to be as cruel as warlike. But these stories have just been set at rest, and the secrets of the valley of the Rio Frio exposed by an adventurous countryman, Captain O. J. Parker, who for five years has been engaged on the stemmers of the Nicaragua Transit Company, plying on the River San Juan and Lake Nicaragua. He undertook to ascend the river in 1867, in a cance, and penetrated to the head of cance navigation. We subjoin his simple and unadorned narrative of the expedition, which is now published for the first time:

"My curiosity to penetrate into the valley of the Rio Frio, explore its course and learn its especities, as well as something of the strange people called the Guatusos, who live on its banks, was early greatly excited by the numberless stories I had heard concerning the Indians and their country, and I had not been long in Nicaragua before I resolved on the adventure. I, however, sought for companions in vain; everybody denounced the enterprise as hazardous and icolbardy in the extreme. Some years of service with the Texan In the extreme. Some years of service with the Arxin Rangers, and my experience in river navigation, lad me to think otherwise, and after a year or two of effort, I succeeded in rating a cance party, consisting of three Europeans, named A. C. Roberts and José Pélang, Franco-Californians, and C. Debbon, a German, long Franco-Californians, and C. Debbon, a German, long resident in Louisiana, to accompany me; all good cancemen and experienced sho s. Of course we were well and heavily armed, and moreover furrished for a three month's journey. My cance was of the ordinary kind in use upon the coast, twenty-t-so feet long, of a single ceda: log, light and strong, capable of making six knots an hour with case to three paddles, and drawing twelve inches of water with my narry shourd. inches of water with my party aboard.

inches of water with my party aboard.

Commencing our journey from San Juan del Norie, on arriving at Fort San Carlos, we were quite as agreeably as unexpectedly joined by Captain Hart, of the Transit Company's steamer Granada, and two other Americans, William Hanger and William Godden, who offered to accompany us part of the distance on a hunting trip, game being very abundant near the mouth of the river. They brought a light double-oared boat with them.

Leaving Fort San Carles at four o'clock a. M., August Sth, we resched a plantain patch eight miles up the river, belonging to the fort, at surrise. So far, the banks and adjacent country were low and swampy. By climbing trees on the river side we were able to ass numerous lagoons connected by channels with each other, and with the river. This being the height of the season, many of these lagoons were deep likes, in extent, around which the picture que coyol and gamaleta were fringed in the solitary but pulm and game beautiful landscape, as far as the eye could reach, with hore and there small clumps of larger timber pleasantly relieving the uniformity. The river itself at the mouth, and for many hundred yards into the lake, is much obstructed by sand banks and the altuvial deposit of the river, but there is a good though narrow channel to the westward, earrying four feet of water. A short distance from its mouth the stream becomes and con-tinuous of an average width of one hundred yards; times of an average width of one hundred yards; depth five feet, with a current in general of one and a half miles per hour. The temperature of the water is at least tem d grees lower than that of the lake; it also is clearer, and of a bindsh color. Game began to be stray plentifel, particularly turkeys, ducks and water birds, and on the banks, deer, guari (wiid-hog), and many varieties of the monkey-tribe. As we ascended, the mouths of the creeks we frequently same scroed the remains of old fish-traps, and fish of many varieties were observed, especially the guapete, which is a fine-flavored, speckled fish, averaging five pounds in weight.

weight.

At four in the afternoon we reach a number of bend,
in the channel, and selecting a point in the laft bank



BIO FRIO CAMP.

which we named "Godden's Bend," went ashore and built a camp, covering a frame of poles with swallow-til grass, known in the country as "sweety," which began to be abundant. We adhered to a plan during the trip, which was put in practice the first night, to secure us from any surprise or attack, namely, that of building a large camp-fire at fifty feet distance from our shelter, and stationing a guard thirty feet in an opposite direction, near whom the end of a long canoe line was made fast. Sand-files and musquilos were num rous, but, having a large muslin bar, we slept soundly until daylight, having traveled thirty-five miles of deep r free from obstructions.

Early in the morning of the second day we discovered Indian signs, but not recent; and at nine A.M. entered "Blue Lake" by a short, deep channel from the left bank. We did not cross it, but estimated its diameter at ten miles. It is fed by the river, through a channel at its sonth-eastern extremity, but two-thirds of the water thus received is discharged by a channel at the western side, which, possibly, is the Rio Negro, falling into Lake Nicaragua eighteen miles west of San Carlos. A dam at the upper end of this lake might easily be constructed, and the whole body of water thus confined to the main channel of the Rio Frio. It also appears to me extremely probable that a complete examination of the right bank would discover natural facilities for joining the waters of the Rios Frio and San Juan below Fort San Carlos, which would be a matter of the greatest importance in navigation to both Nicaragua and Costa

Resuming our secent of the river, we observed high banks of red clay, larger and greater varieties of timber, and a luxurious vegetation. About three P.M. we were much amused in ressing an immense drove of large utensils, of coarse red clay ware, similar to that us by the Indians of the Lake, while the breech-cloth, which is their only covering, is simply a piece of ule (india-rubber) or molagua bark, beaten into a kind of felt upon a smooth stone.

The trail upon the left bank is much better than the one upon the right bank of the river; the latter is per-haps solely used for hunting, or in passing along to the fishing-weirs, etc. We carefully selected our campingground, about four P.M., upon the left bank, on a high point, round which the river winds in a sudden curve, having made, by our estimate, twenty-five miles since

Starting at daylight on the fourth day, we began to observe signs of cultivation, and after a while perceived on both sides of the river fair quantities of plantain, cassava, kikisky, papayas, maize and cacao, the last re-markably fine, and the trees, from their great size, evi-dently old. At nine a.m. passed the entrance of a large sheet of water, "Parker Lake," which, however, we did not stop to explore, and an hour afterward came un-expectedly upon another Indian, who gave us a better opportunity of examining him, and I may as well take this opportunity of describing his appearance, and the characteristics of the tribe we encountered, so far as we could ascertain them. I can do so concisely, by stating that a Guatuso Indian, to the eye, in all respects, resembles a Comanche; but to those who may never have had the misfortune to meet this gentle sp of humanity, I will add that in stature they average sizete, and in weight two hundred pounds, the females likewise being of large rize. They are of a clear copper color, untainted, apparently, by admixture with either white or negro blood, and are perfect models of strength and muscular development. Their faces are somewhat

itself. We also saw several varieties of cedar of fine

special we also saw several varieties of cedar of the growth, and some mahegany. Estimated distance this day, thirty-five miles.

Finding plenty of fresh signs around our camp, I made the most of our position, which was naturally a good one, by cutting paths from it up and down the stream from camp, and remembering old times in Texas, I drove half a dozen stakes into the ground around the fire more which were numer the west clothes. around the fire, upon which were nung the wet clothes of the party so as to somewhat resemble sitting figures. The guard was stationed near the point where the cance was moored under a large chitimate tree. In the middle of the night I heard Indians down the stream, and rousing Roberts, heard them passing behind our camp, and soon afterward a slight crackling in the brands near the fire satisfied us of their immediate presence. Without disturbing the balance of the party, we lay waiting for "what would turn up," and shortly afterward an arrow flew with great force amongst the decoy stakes, striking one obliquely, and then glancing to the ground, where it firmly planted itself. Firing a couple of shots in the direction from which the arrow came, we heard no more of our visitors, and slept un-molested the rest of the night.

FIFTH DAY, AUGUST 12th.—In reconnoiting the wichity in the morning, we found a spot not half a mile up the river, where at least forty Indians had camped during the night. Fires were burning, and there were plentiful supplies of plantains in every stage of ripeness ready for the morning's meal. We went ashore to ex-mine the place, and tapped an immense India-rubher tree. At eight o'clock Captain Hart and his companions parted from us to join the steamer on the flan June parted from us to join the steamer on the San Juan

Resuming our upward course alone at about 9.30

Between this point and the forks we saw in our as setween this point and the forks we saw in our as cent many groups of shanties, sometimes numbering a dozen together; but they were quickly vacated at our approach. Fires were left burning, and we saw the recent trick of children's feet, heard dogs barking, and a great deal of noise made by the Indians in their flight. About four P. M., we came quietly within twenty-five feet of three Indians on a log at the riverside, shooting fish with arrows. Contemplating are side, shooting fish with arrows. Contemplating us for an instant with the most perplexed and curious air im-aginable, they suddenly raised a great yell, and scram-bled up the high bank with the most surprising agility. bled up the high bank with the most surprising agility. They, like all the rest, ran into the forest, screaming at

They, like all the rest, ran into the forest, screaming at the top of their voices.

Repassing the forks, we shortly after saw a man and woman landing from raffa sied to the right bank. On examination the ground showed unmistakable signs of at least three hundred persons having crossed quite recently from the left bank. Running the cance as quickly as possible alongside, we attroproduce redeat. quickly as possible alongside, we strenuously endeaved by words and signs to induce a parloy. They were each armed with bows and spears, and "retreated in good order" to a plantain patch, making several stands meantime, as if to show us that fear had less to do with their movements than policy—and soon afterward commenced the usual yelling and screaming, which we unanimously agreed could not be outdone by any other tribe on earth.

Two miles below, and whilst regretting the futility of our efforts at communication with the Indiana, we approached unobserved a raft tied to the right bank, upon which was seated an Indian busily engaged in plucking the feathers from a speckled bittern nearly the size of a turkey, which he had just shot with his bow, which lay beside him on the raft. When within a few feet of



RIO FRIO INDIANS SURPRISED.

A. M., we reached the "forks" of the river and the head of steam navigation. At the mouth of the eastern fork, which appeared rapid, rocky and unnavigable, is a small sland which would be of uses as the site of the pioneer tort or depot. We therefore entered the western branch and with considerable labor ascended the channel, which is fill of rocks, trees, have and shoals, a distance, which is fill of rocks, trees, have and shoals, a distance, to him, in the various Index dielects with which we which is full of rocks, trees, bars and shoals, a distance of twelve miles, when we arrived at a broad gravel reach, about five hundred yards wide and nearly dry, over which it was impossible to pass the cance, and re-terring to my log, found the distance from the mouth of the river to this point one hundred and thirty-five miles. Leaving the canoe, we proceeded a short dis-tance up the channel, and sunk a hole on a bar in a favorable-looking position for gold, but without finding a "color." However, while walking about the bars and adjacent banks, I picked up a piece of bluish quartz, which was subsequently assayed by Jacoby & Co., at San Juan, and yielded very rich returns of both gold and sliver

Marivalles Mountains | cross the head of this branch nearly at right angles, and at apparently a distance of two or three miles only. Their uniformity and general appearance would, however, lead one to suppose it next to impossible to find through them a pass for a practical road to the valley beyond. Toward pass for a practical road to the valley beyond, the east, and most likely following the caffon of the eastern fork for many miles, is a great depression in the range, which would indicate this as the easiest, as it is a road of communication between the valley of the Rio Grande de Costa Rica and the head of navigation on the Rio Frio. We cut marks upon several "soto-cavalho" trees

with machetes, on the right bank, and commenced our return trip at three P.

to him in the various Indian dialects with which we were acquainted—Spanish, French, and English—with-out any avail. Continuing his preparations amid the wildest cries and gestures, he at length drew the arrow full upon me as I sat in the stern of the cance, and at the same moment dropped dead by a shot from our party. I very much regretted this unfortunate result, which I did my utmost to avert, strictly enjoining no shot to be fired in any event, unless we were surroundsnotto be nred in any event, unless we were surround-ed by numbers, and I was willing to take the chance of the arrow-shot in hopes of securing the Indian after-ward. He was about thirty years of age, fully six feet higb, and of large, robust limbs. He had a large head, covered with hair reaching below the hips, which, com-bined with a savage expression of face, rendered his appearance and gestures somewhat more ferocious appearance and gestures somewhat more ferocious

than fascinating.

After this unfortunate occurrence, we continued our descent of the river in heavy rain the whole night without stopping, passing Camp No. 2 about one A. M., and arriving at Fort Ban Carlos soon after daylight, or about fitteen hours after commencing our return. Captain Hart and party had arrived the previous night in safety. Allowing two miles per hour for the current, as the rain had raised the creeks considerably, and an average speed of six miles for the cance, we have as the length of the river one hundred and twenty miles, of which distance one hundred and eight are capable of steamer navigation



MOUTH OF THE BIO FRIO.

red monkeys (ringtails). They appeared for a while determined to ascend the river in our company, swing-ing along the highest branches with an indescribable amount of chattering and grimacing. Our lowest estimate numbered them at fifteen hundred. We camped at 4.30 r.m. on the right bank, distant from last camp twenty miles. At 9.30 p.m. heard Indians, and making careful examination, could smell fire; however, passed the night undisturbed. August 10th.—Continued our course at daybreak.

d at the fir This consisted in the accidental fall of an immen 'Belan' tree across the river, and through which t were compelled to cut a passage with axes. Close by the bunk was tied a small raft, upon which had been a fire burning recently, and a quantity of freshly-cut plantams. Jumping ashore with Roberts, we struck plantains. Jumping ashore with Roberts, we struck into a well-worn path up the stream (in some places nearly a foot deep), but finding the trail cold, we re-

turned to our party after an hour's absence.

At two P.M. saw another raft, upon which two Indians
were cooking plantains. They jumped ashore immediately on perceiving us, taking with them their arms bows and spears), and uttering the loudest cries. We hastened to follow them, but, enoumbered and cramped as we were, no wonder without success. We had brought several articles of great value in Indian eyes to barter or give away. I had also a gay old uniform, which I was anxious to give to the chief, if we could only effect communications with the tribe. It was pretty evident comminications with the tribe. It was pretty evident that they possessed neither firearms nor cutlery—in-deed, during our trip we saw no metal of any kind, manufactured or unmanufactured, in their possession Their servow-heads and axes are made of coyol (a hard black palm) and stone; their cooking and other

They appeared for a while | broader, with higher cheek-hones, than the Lake Indians with coarse but not generally unpleasant features, whilst the long, straight black hair is allowed to fall around the body in both sexes until it sometimes trails on the ground. They were apparently without ornament, or rather disfigurement of any kind; and altogether, the appearance to us of the Guatuses fully justified the appellation of "Wild Indians," in the strictest sense of the term, as applied by the natives of the country, who are, nevertheless not a whit further advanced in the arts of horticulture, road-making, or in social prothan these Guatusos, and physically they are much

We arrived at a small island in the river at 11 A. M., We arrived at a small island in the river at the con-(Hart's Island); good channel along right bank. Con-stantly passed old rafts and deserted shantles, the lat-ter being covered with wake leaf only, which is very perishable, and hence one would infer that the Gus-tusos villages are not located on the river; these build-times are reconstruction for visit tusos villages are not located on the river; these buildings being merely used as occasion requires for visit, ing the plantations, collecting game, etc., and that the people permanently reside upon the slopes of the mountains, where they are not molested by musquitos and other troublesome insects, and where the position would would be more open and agreeable.

From 11 a. w. to 4.30 P. M. passed great numbers of India-rubber trees on both banks, a belt fifteen miles long, and from one hundred to eight hundred yards wide. The most experienced "rubber-men" of our party had never seen such an immense grove before.

wide. The moss experienced "Pruber-mrn" of our party had never seen such an immense grove before. Several creeks likewise, which fell into the river on both banks, contained scarcely any other timber. The river here is less tortuous. We camped at 4.80 r. m. on the left bank, opposite "Muddy Creek," which some of the party declared contained more rubber than the river



HEAD OF NAVIGATION ON THE RIO

INCIDENTS, ACCIDENTS.



SHOOTING OF WILLIAM CONNELL BY BICHARD CASEY, AT THE CORNER OF BOWERY AND BAYARD STREET, NEW YORK CITY.

HOME INCIDENTS, &c. Carnival of Crime.

Each day the newspapers contain a ghastly record of crimes, as might be expected in such a populous city as



MURDER OF CHARLES JACOBS, IN FIRST AVENUE, NEW YORK.

this; but of late murder [seems to run riot, and the first thought of each citizen, as he reads the fresh record of new violence in his morning's paper, is, Who is safe? The execution of Jerry O'Brien, of Sylvester Quiller, of Welsh, and the sentencing of Fanny Wright to State Prison, seem rather to have incited the wick-edly reckless among us to the commission of that crime, the greatest known to the law, and the invariable punishment of which should be a speedy shrift and a

short rope.
On the 4th of January there were no less than three murders committed in this city and environs. On the corner of Bayard street end the Bowery, at an early hour in the morning, William Connell was murdered by



A HUMAN BAT EATER.

Bichard Casey, under the following circumstances, as elicited by the coroner's inquest over the body of Connell: While Connell was walking quietly along the Bowery, in company with two females, Casey shook some money in the faces of the party. Connell asked why they were insulted, and was answered that it was none of his business. Casey then knocked Connell's hat into the gutter, and as the owner stooped to pick it up, shot him in the head, when he fell into the gutter. Casey then shot him a second time in the head, inflict-ing such wounds as caused his death within twenty-four hours. Casey was arrested as he was ficeing from the bloody scene, and conveyed to the station-house. The verdict of the jury, at the coroner's inquest, distinctly charges him with the crime, and leaves no likelihood of his escaping the gallows.

The second murder was enacted at No. 262 First Avenue, in which a butcher's-knife was fatally used: Charles Jacobs, a butcher, attempted to put a man, named Kelly, out of his shop, at 262 First Avenue, because he was drunk and noisy. After a scuffle, in which Jacobs was getting the best of his opponent, Kelly seized a large knife from the counter, and pluned it into the abdomen of the butcher, inflicting a fatal injury. The wounded man was at once conveyed to Bellevue Hospital, and Coroner Schirmer was called to take an ante-mortem statement, the facts of which are take an ante-mortem statement, the facts of which are



HOW A GANDER WENT FISHING.

stated above, after which Jacobs seemed much ex-

stated above, after which Jacobs seemed much exhausted, sank into a state of unconsciousness, and died about midnight. Kelly, the alleged murderer is still at large, though the detectives are in hot pursuit of him. The third fatal affray of Saturday, the 5th of January, took place in the lager bier saloon of Henry Shear, corner of Graham avenue and Richardson street, Williamsburg, between a party of half-intoxicated Germans, during which Shear was fatally stabbed by Otto Schade. From the evidence taken at the corner's inquest, it appears that Schade, who was intoxicated at inquest, it appears that Schade, who was intoxicated at

struck. Sichade then left the saloon and went to his home, 14 Sandford street, and Shear was removed to a drug store at the corner of Graham avenue and Ainslie drug store at the corner of granum avenue and ansine street, when several surgeons were called to his assist-ance, but the wound proved fatal, and he died between three and four o'clock in the morning. Officers Lewis and Gates, of the Forty-sixth precinct, hearing of the tragedy shorily after its occurrence, proceeded to the residence of Schade and arrested him. He was in bed when the officers found him, and the bloody knife with which he indicted the tatal wound was lying by his bedwhich he inflicted the tatal wound was lying by his bed



BULL AND BEAR FIGHT AT THE ABBEY RACE TRACE, ST. LOUIS, MO.



SWIFT AND TERRIBLE PUNISHMENT.

the time, visited the saloon at a late hour, and indulged freely in lager bier. While in a hilarious state, he undertook to show some persons in the saloon various tricks by cards, and while so performing one of the party knocked the cards from his hands, and a row resulted, during which Schade was rather roughly handled. Shear endeavored to preserve peace, and when the carrying of concealed handled. Shear endeavored to preserve peace, and when the carrying of concealed handled. used every effort to allay the angry passions of the belligerents, and while endeavoring to rescue Schade from his assailants, the latter drew a common jack-knife and plunged it into the upper part of his left shoulder, probably not knowing or caring at whom he



PATAL STABBING APPRAY IN WILLIAMSBURGH.

weapons. With an instrument of death at hand, the devil soon finds a plausible excuse for its use.

A Human Rat Eater.

One of the employes in the Boston Gas Works boasted his ability to kill a rat with his teeth. For a bet of five dollars the experiment was tried. A room was pro-cured and a table, in the centre of which a hole was cured and a table, in the centre or which a hole was bored, and through this a string extended, one end being fastened below and the other end was tied to one of the legs of a large rat. The chewer's hands were tied behind him. He quietly applied his mouth to the orifice in the table; with the aid of his tongue he picked up the string and held it in his dentals. Then he quietly and slowly slid his face along in the direc



AN AGENT OF THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU TARRED AND VARNISHED.

tion of the rat, until within "distance," and then cying his victim a moment, he made a sudden snap. There was a crunch, a sharp squeak, and the bet was

How a Gander Went Fishing.

How a Gander Went Fishing.

A farmer living near Elizabeth, New Jersey, was perplexed by a goose of the masculine gender that every apring would lead the flock away to the ultermost parts of the pond, and there remain with these until fall. One April morning he apprehended the cut. in the very act of entiting away the flock. Taking him in hand, he tied a couple of yards of fish line and a bailed hook to his leg and gave him permission to leave. However, when the flock grandly across the water, when was conveying the flock grandly across the water, when

he apparently experienced a sensation under the water. His terrified wives and children withdrew to a safe distance, and looked on in wonder. After a long struggle, the bird dragged ashore a huge pickerel, and since that time has entirely reformed, looking upon the pend as a place to be carefully shunned.

A Buil and Bear Fight in St. Louis.

A Bull and Bear Fight in St. Leuis.

It is said that civilization is making rapid strides Westward; but it seems that some of the Western communities have very peculiar ideas in regard to the recreations and amusements suitable to their progressive enlight nment. In old Spain the popular conception of holiday enjoyment is a bull-flaght; but in St. Louis, Mo., they have their bull and bear fights on Christmas Day, doubtless considering that the most appropriate way of celebrating the sacred festival in honor of the birthday of the Prince of Peace. The loog-expected fight between the celebrated fighting bear, "Grizzly Joo" and Griffin's bull, took place on Christmas afternoon, at the Abbey Rice Track, and was witnessed by a crowd of about 2,000 people. The police made no sitempt to interfere, and the two animals, urged to the combat by their respective backers, fought until, bleeding, bewildered, and exhausted, they metually declined any further hostile demonstration, and it was decided to be a drawn battle. tion, and it was decided to be a drawn battle.

Swift and Terrible Punishment.

A negro named Albert Saunders recently committed an outrage on the person of Mrs. Baker, the wife of a well-known and respectable citizen of Princeton, Indians. He was pursued and captured, and made a full confession of his crime. He was then seized by an excited mob, and stabbed, shot, and beaten till he was dead. A rose was then put around his neck and the dead. A rope was then put sround his neck, and the mob dragged his body through the town, and left it lying in the street, where it remained till removed by the

An Agent of the Freedmen's Bureau Tarred and Varnished.

A sub-agent of the Freedmen's Bureau in Alabama named Pointer, attempted to collect a sum of money from the negroes in Marshall county, on the pretence from the negroes in Marsani county, on the precise that the amount was due from them for drawing up contracts. The negroes refused to pay the subsidy, whereupon Pointer, having imbibed freely of cora juice, abused and cursed them roundly. The negroes bore this till patience ceased to be a virtue, when they seized upon the luckless agent, besmeared his face with tar, afterward applied a cost of varnish, and turned him loose.

FUN FOR THE FAMILY.

What physician is undoubtedly at the top of his profession?

He who is called to attend patients on a monument.

WHAT part of a ship is like a farmer? The

Ir corns were hereditary, they might prop-

"THAT'S a flame of mine," as the bellows

WHAT is the oldest tree? The elder tree.

Call a lady a "chicken," and ten to one she is augry with you. Tell her she is "no chicken," and twenty to one she is more angry still.

Hearing a physician remark that a small blow will break the nose, a rustic exclaimed: "Well, I donno 'bout that. I've blowed my nose a great many times, and I've never broke it yet."

A FASHIONABLE PROVERB.—Heaven sent us

THE VALUE OF SILENCE.—A woman has often committed herself by talking—never by holding her

Duning a recent trial, there was a large number of ladies present; who caused a gents murmuring all the while. The unber called out repeatedly, "Silence!" when the judge mildly said:
"Mr. Usher, don't you know better than call silence when ladies are in court."

"UNCLE JEMMY," says a waggish blade to one of the best old men who ever lived or died, "I'm cold you are very fond of apple dumplings."
"Why," says the old patriarch, "when I lived in Virginia, I liked them better than anything in the world, and could eat eighteen or nineleen at a time; but somehow, since I came to Georgia, my appetite has so failed me, that I can never eat more than fourteen or fitteen before they begin to elog upon my stomach."

In the good old times in Kentucky, "when substantial justice" was administered in log a cabis, after a free and easy manner, a suit was brought to recover certain moneys which it was alleged plaintif had been defrauded out of by the ingenious operation known as "thimble-rigging." In the course of the trial, plaintiff's counsel, who happened to be an "expert," undertock to enlighten the court as to the modus operated of the performance. Putting hinself into position, he produced the three cups and "the little Joker," and proceeded, suiting the action to the word:

little joker," and proceeded, sutting the action to the word:

"Then may it please the court, the defendant placing the cups on his knee thus, began shifting them so, offering to bet that my client could not tell under which cup was the "little joker," meaning thereby, may it please the court, this ba'l, with the intention of defrauding my chent of the sum thus wagered. For instance when I raise the cup so, your heart supposes you see the ball."

"Suppose I seel" interrupted the judge, who had closely watched the performance and was sure that he had detected the ball, as one of the cups was accidentally raised. "Why, any fool can see where it is and bet on it, and be sure to win. There ain't no defraudin' that."

thar."
"Perhaps your honor would like to go a V on it?"
insunated the counsel.
"Go a V? Yes, and double it, too, and here's the
rhino. It's under the middle cup."
"P'il go a V on that," said the foreman of the jury.
"And I, and I," joined in the jurors, one after the
other, until each one had invested his pile.
"It's" said his honor.

other, until each one had invested his pile.

"Up!" said his honor.

"Up" it was, but the "little joker" had mysteriously disappeared. Judge and jury were enlightened, and found no difficulty in bringing in a verdict in favor of plaintiff, on the ground that it was the "derndest kind o' defraudin"."

In Ireland lately a countryman of the dullest aspect appeared before a judge to complain that he could not get possession of an inheritance, coming to him from his anni. The justice directed him, thereupon, to obtain a certificate or death from the pastor of his anni's village, and the necessary steps should be taken to secure him the inheritance. In a day or two the man returned, and complained that the pastor refused to sive him the certificate, for the reason that his aunt was yet alive.

"And you did not know it?" asked the judge.

"Of course, your honor, I knew abs wasn't deed; but it was time I got the inheritance she promised me long enough ago."

THE first thing a man takes to in life is sik—the last is his bier,

MR. FFIRSHING, the well-known publisher of The Tobacco Leaf, and News from Germany and Switzerland, has commenced a most original paper, called News from Ireland. It contains and the reliable and interesting news from Ireland, without any editorials, which, of course, gives more room for the more valuable information. The office is at 142 Fulton street, near Broadway, New York.

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